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goal! Weekly

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INTERVIEW WITH MELBOURNE HEART COACH JOHN VAN'T SCHIP

INTERVIEW WITH MATILDA SALLY SHIPPARD

YET ANOTHER GW EXCLUSIVE

DUNKERLEY STRIKES BACK!

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goal! Weekly

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Alimental Enterprises Pty Ltd
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Fax: 03 9551 7538

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Tel: 13 23 01

News Room: 03 9551 7538
Advertising: 03 9551 7538

Email: news@goalweekly.com
Letters: mailbag@goalweekly.com
Web: www.goalweekly.com

Editor: Costa Koutropoulos
Art Director: Carlos Ibarra
Design: Ivan Andreevski

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Aritro Adebin, Nat Adamopoulos, Mark Boric, Bruce Darnell, Lee Galiardi, Russ Gibbs, Andrew Fisher, Roy Hay, Markian Jaworsky, George Katsamboukas, Eddie Krncevic, Jarrod Ellis, Francis Fields, John Fotinos, Matt Galea, Russ Gibbs, Bart Hulley, Adam Husseini, Peter Katholos, Jacob Kagi, John Kyrou, Sebastian Kipman,George Kouroumalis, Michael Lilikakis, Josip Loncaric, Craig MacKenzie, Alex Milic, Ashley Morrison, Adam North, Jeremy O'Neil, Teo Pellizzeri, Kieran Pender, Walter Pless, Tony Persoglia, Leroy Robinson, Julius Ross, Roger Sleeman, Mike Salter, Luke Sheehan, Con Stamocostas, George Stogiannou, Reuben Schembri, Lachlan Taylor, Elias Simopoulos, Michal Skrodsky, Addy Wetzler, Bruno Zovko.

Photographers
Adam Butler, Therese Duffy, Daniel Flis, Dean Grant, Carlos Furtado, Geoff Jones, Peter Kakalias, Darryl Kennedy, Paul Lau, Lee McCormick, Mark McGeady, Brett McDonald, Anita Milas, Peter Psarros, John Punshon, Brett Robson, Steve Starek, George Stogiannou.

Reds through to ACL last sixteen

Adelaide United FC has qualified for the next phase of the AFC Champions League 2010 after escaping with a nil-all draw against the Pohang Steelers at the Steelyard in Korea in Match Day 5 of the competition.

Needing a point to guarantee a spot in the Round of 16, the Reds found themselves under siege against the reigning ACL champions for the majority of the 90 minutes, but a gritty resolve coupled with a host of missed chances from the home side saw United progress through to the next round.

United remains unbeaten against Pohang in the teams' four encounters after the scoreless draw, the record even more impressive by the fact that the K-League giants are yet to find a way past goalkeeper Eugene Galekovic and score against the Reds.

The result, which also sends Pohang into the next round, keeps the Reds at the top of Group H with the final match day of the Group Stage to decide whether United can uphold its position and gain a home fixture in the one off Round of 16 encounter.

The only sour note to come out of the Reds' achievement is that Lucas Pantelis, Daniel Mullen and Adam Hughes will all be unavailable for the final group stage match at home against China's Shandong Luneng in a fortnight after they each received their second yellow card of the competition.

-DOM RINALDO

Beijing's Ross Maurice glides past Victory's Surat Sukha in Match Day 5 ACL action. PHOTO: SYDNEY LOW

Melbourne Victory in stalemate with Beijing Guoan

Melbourne Victory bowed out of the Asian Champions League after a scoreless draw against Beijing Guoan at Etihad Stadium on Wednesday night in front of 6394 hardy supporters from the two sides.

Victory started with Carlos Hernandez supporting Robbie Kruse and Nikola Mrdja in attack and Surat Sukha in defensive midfield.

But it was the visitor which dominated the first half with a series of sweeping moves which resulted in five corner kicks and a number of shots which tested the Victory defence, though Mitchell Langerak did not have many direct saves to make.

Victory was virtually unable to mount cohesive moves and attacks were infrequent.

Robbie Kruse ran through in the 20th minute and the Beijing keeper Yang Zhi seemed to make contact with his feet rather than the ball, but there was no response from the referee.

Twenty-seven minutes elapsed before a passing move resulted in Victory shot on goal by full back Evan Berger.

By half-time the only other incident from the home fans' perspective was a trip on Robbie Kruse on the edge of the area in injury time.

The second half was little more exciting with the Victory failing once again to produce direct shots on goal until substitute Marvin Angulo popped up with a blistering drive from wide on the left in 74 minutes.

The keeper spilled the effort, but Mrdja could not react quick enough to put away the loose ball.

Earlier Beijing's Australian striker, Joel Griffiths, had a clear chance but headed wide from a cross by Yan Xiangchuang. Griffiths' movement occasionally troubled the Victory backline and Erivaldo also threatened but neither could break the deadlock.

His coach, Hong Yuanshuo, thought that perhaps Griffiths was trying too hard to repeat his goal against Victory the last time these teams met.

Coach Ernie Merrick argued his youngsters did not let him down, and that after a flat first 25 minutes, Victory improved through the game, but they struggled to keep possession.

He stressed that Beijing was a good team.

Nevertheless Victory was unable to cover the loss of so many of its top players.

With Kawasaki Frontale winning in Japan it would not have mattered had Victory taken all three points and so the Champions League campaign sputtered to a disappointing conclusion.

- ROY HAY

Coup for Hume as Ozdenak signs

After a successful start to the 2010 season Hume City once again proved to the football world that it is leaving no stone unturned to cement itself as a long term fixture in the Victorian Premier League, after announcing a major coup during the week that former Galatasaray and Turkish international goalkeeper Yasin Ozdenak will be appointed as the club's new Director of Football.

Ozdenank comes to Hume with an impressive CV having played in the same New York Cosmos team as legends Pele, Franz Beckenbauer, Carlos Alberto, Giorgio Chinaglia, Johan Neeskens, Werner Roth and Rick Davis, during his stint in the NASL during the late 70's, before also coaching them in the early 80's.

Ozdenak, represented the Turkish national team 40 times whilst playing for Galatasaray between 1966 - 1976.

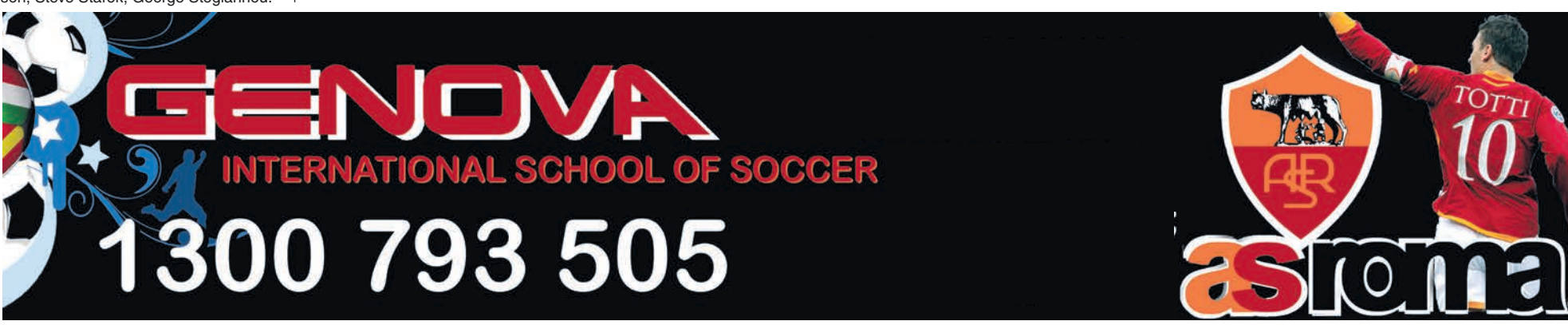
Yasin Ozdenak said, "I am extremely excited to come to a club with an unbelievable drive for success. I aim to share with the club my knowledge which I have built over my playing and coaching careers. We will be revising everything from the bottom up, and ensuring that all facets of the club are operating efficiently. I believe I have a lot to offer Australian football."

Ozdenak's coaching career is as impressive as his playing career, working as an assistant coach to Mircea Lucescu between 1999 - 2003 during Galatasaray's most successful ever period winning the European Super Cup against European powerhouse Real Madrid.

Ozdenak ararives at Hume City from Seoul FC where he worked as an assistant to Turkish Legend Senol Gunes for the past three seasons.

Hume City Communications Manager Ezel Hikmet said,"We are extremely happy with this appointment. I don't think anyone can question Yasin Ozdenak's experience and credibilty. With the support of our supporters, and the Hume Community we aim to continue our quest become a stable and recognised club in the VPL. Ozdenak will oversee the operational duties of the club and work hand in hand with all of our coaches. Andy Vlahos' position as senior coach is in no way affected by this appointment made by the club. Vlahos is our senior coach and has been doing an amazing job thus far, after taking the club to a preliminary final in 2009 as well as starting the 2010 season undefeated after 6 rounds. We will continue our 'together everyone achieves more' approach to running this club, which is eager for long term sustainability and success.

Turkish legend Yasin Osdenak



Dunkerley strikes back

By Craig MacKenzie

FFV president Tony Dunkerley wasted no time in reacting to last week's lead story in Goal! Weekly by sending a rallying letter to the federation's stakeholders.

Dunkerley's letter said that an urgent board meeting would be convened to "discuss these issues, in order to resolve this matter once and for all."

The letter was prompted by a series of claims that at least three members of the board have lost confidence in Dunkerley who was elected as president in 2006 and announced last week that he would seek another term.

GW also was told of disquiet among some zone representatives and standing committee members over the manner in which the federation's March AGM was conducted.

We wrote last week that members of Dunkerley's board had leaked information to us and club administrators and Dunkerley's letter addressed this issue from the outset.

"These allegations are deeply disturbing," Dunkerley wrote, "and require further investigation. If substantiated, I, and many of my fellow Directors, condemn this conduct as a blatant breach of the FFV's Board Charter and its Code of Ethics."

The boardroom breach widened last Friday when GW received a copy of Dunkerley's letter.

We were first offered a copy early on Friday afternoon during a conversation with a disgruntled stakeholder. A few hours later another source emailed us with the letter attached in jpg format and later that night at a match we were offered the letter by a third source.

Yesterday we received an email headed 'RE: u might be interested' purporting to come from a stakeholder but listed as a hotmail account from an unidentified sender.

FFV president Tony Dunkerley (centre) after winning office in 2006, flanked by GW reporters George Stogiannou and Teo Pellizzerri.

FOOTBALL FEDERATION VICTORIA

Thursday, 15 April 2010

Dear Member

I am responding to the article in Goal Weekly of 12 April 2010 containing allegations that Directors have leaked confidential Board information to the media and the public.

These allegations are deeply disturbing and require further investigation. If substantiated, I, and many of my fellow Directors, condemn this conduct as a blatant breach of the FFV's Board Charter and its Code of Ethics.

Any such conduct can only serve to jeopardise the hard work and ethical standards of the FFV Directors, staff, Members and Standing Committees who are striving to deliver on an ambitious strategic plan for the future growth of the sport of football across Victoria.

The FFV Board has been put in place by you, our Members, to oversee the growth of football in Victoria and to ensure its sustainable future, with each Director duty bound to contribute to the betterment of the sport and to act in FFV's best interests at all times, regardless of personal position, circumstances or affiliation

Directors are encouraged to voice their individual views in an appropriate and open manner, and any effort to undermine this democratic approach can only be seen as obstructive and should be condemned.

I will be calling an immediate meeting of the Directors t discuss these issues, in order to resolve this matter once and for all.

I remain open and accessible for anyone who wishes to discuss my performance or that of any Director, and encourage you to contact me on [redacted] should the need arise.

Kind regards,

Tony Dunkerley
President
Football Federation Victoria

The FFV letter sent to GW.

It noted a series of questions to be put to Dunkerley and claiming to be "from the members". We cannot verify whether or not the FFV president has received this email but here, in part, is what it says:

"Dear Tony,
"What part of the [GW] story is untrue?
"The divided board?
"The fact that there are 3 dissident board members which make up 50% of the elected board?
"The lack of confidence in you as president by the 3 dissident board members?
"Your personal inability to address issues of personal conflict and harmony within the Board?
"Directors being sued by fellow directors?
"Directors not adhering to the code of conduct?
"Disgruntled stakeholders?
"Unfilled vacancies in zones?
"The failings of the strategic plan?"

The timing of this current board upheaval is significant as the positions of board president and two directors are open for election either late this year or early next year.

We have been told in the past 48 hours that Dunkerley will face at least one challenger in his bid to retain the presidency.

We also have been told by a leading club administrator of his intention to stand for one of the two directors' positions.

In keeping with FFV's constitution the election must be held within five months of the end of the federation's financial year which is 31 October.

The electorate consists of two representatives from each of the 12 state zones and six representatives from the various standing committees.

However, not all those positions are currently filled and if the elections were held today just 21 stakeholders would be eligible to vote.

ANOTHER GW EXCLUSIVE

COMMENT

I've read Tony Dunkerley's letter closely and from my perspective there is an essential point being missed amid this political upheaval. It's an issue of civil liberty, specifically freedom of speech.

The FFV board has a charter of conduct that only allows president Dunkerley and FFV CEO Mark Rendell to speak to the media.

Has it occurred to Dunkerley that people resent being gagged, that they usually find it an abhorrent form of control and that it is a clear breach of one of the most basic of human rights?

I believe that this policy in terms of public relations strategy is flawed and doomed to failure.

Dunkerley's letter to the FFV stakeholders states: "Directors are encouraged to voice their individual views in an appropriate and open manner, and any effort to undermine this democratic approach can only be seen as obstructive and should be condemned."

I've known Tony Dunkerley for four decades. I've always found him affable and approachable. Nevertheless I shake my head in near disbelief when I read phrases such as "encouraged to voice their individual views" and "democratic approach".

Yes, directors are encouraged to voice their views but strictly within the confines of the boardroom and society's definition of "democratic" is at odds with the one used here by the FFV president. Democracy enshrines human freedom. It does not put a leash on it.

Call me naïve if you wish but why is secrecy so sacrosanct among some administrators? Forgive the obvious question but what are they trying to hide?

This is a demonstrably flawed methodology which fuels conspiracy theories from the get-go.

It is a methodology that condemns the FFV board to conflict and that conflict all too often will spill over into the public arena.

There's something else that has been missed in all of this.

Last week's story raised a number of issues, among them unfilled zone representative and standing committee roles, criticism of the federation's strategic plan, disenchantment with the way the March AGM was conducted and matters pertaining to the 2009 financial statements.

Dunkerley's letter of response does not address any of these issues. It is only concerned with the issue of "leaked confidential Board information."

You can be forgiven for thinking that there's a lot of goings on in that FFV boardroom that you are not supposed to know anything about.

After all, why should you? You're just a supporter, a player, a club member, a referee, an administrator, a groundsman, a coach, a canteen worker, or a sponsor. You may even be a member of the media, god forbid.

I'm reminded of the proverb: The more things change the more they stay the same.

As a full-time soccer reporter in the 1980s I recall similar matters being a source of great angst among the hierarchy of the then Victorian Soccer Federation.

But we've come a long way since then. Or have we?

— CRAIG MACKENZIE

Racial taunts mar Chilean League

This past week, racial taunts unfortunately made the headlines particularly in the Chilean first division with Argentine defender Matías Manríque banned for five matches after calling Ecuadorean defender Giovanny Espinoza a "monkey" in a match last month. Manríque, who plays for Ñublense, said Monday he did not plan to appeal the suspension. Espinoza plays for Chilean club Unión Española. Espinoza testified to a league disciplinary panel that Manríque told him several times to "go eat a banana" and "you're a monkey" in the March 27 game. In its report, the disciplinary panel said Manríque told them he did not mean the taunts to be racist and said he called Espinoza after the match to apologize.

COPA LIBERTADORES

Vélez Sarsfield of Argentina and Paraguay's Libertad claimed places in the last 16 of the Copa Libertadores on Thursday after winning their final group games. Cruzeiro of Brazil also qualified, while Universitario of Peru faces a wait to see whether it will progress.

Rodolfo Gamarra scored the winning goal as Libertad rallied to beat Blooming of Bolivia 2-1, while Rodrigo Lopez scored twice as Vélez beat Venezuela's Deportivo Italia 4-0. Peruvian club Universitario held Lanus of Argentina to a scoreless draw to secure second place in Group 4 with 10 points, two behind Libertad. Universitario will have to wait for the other groups to finish before finding out whether that will be good enough to qualify.

The eight group winners and six best placed runners-up progress to the knockout round of 16, starting next month. Libertad, Velez and Cruzeiro join Alianza Lima, Corinthians and Universidad de Chile on the list of teams definitely progressing. Julio Hurtado opened the scoring for already-eliminated Blooming at home against Libertad in the 29th minute. Adalberto Roman equalized in the 39th and Libertad secured first position in the group with Gamarra's winner in the 53rd. Playing at the same time, Lanus needed a win to keep its qualification hopes alive, but failed to find a way to goal at home against Universitario.

Victor Zapata gave Velez the lead against Deportivo Italia in the 43rd minute, and the Argentine club doubled its advantage just after half time with Lopez' first strike from the penalty spot. Emiliano Papa made it 3-0 in the 74th minute and Lopez completed the rout in the 84th with his second goal. The result meant Colo Colo needed to win by at least four goals at home against Cruzeiro, and Thiago made that task even more difficult with the opener for the Brazilian club in the 58th minute. Rodrigo Millar pulled a goal back in the 61st minute, but Andres Scotti was sent off in the 81st as Colo Colo bowed out of the tournament.

Cruzeiro drew 1-1 with Colo Colo of Chile to finish on 11 points, two behind Velez in Group 7. That result guaranteed Cruzeiro one of the best six runners-up positions in the Round of 16. Peruvian club Universitario held Lanus of Argentina to a scoreless draw to secure second place in Group 4 with 10 points, two behind Libertad. Universitario will have to wait for the other groups to finish before finding out whether that will be good enough to qualify.

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Dentinho and Elias scored Wednesday as Brazil's Corinthians had a 2-0 win at Racing of Uruguay to qualify for the last 16 of the Copa Libertadores. Universidad Catolica of Chile beat Flamengo 2-0 at home, while Emelec of Ecuador held Internacional to a 0-0 draw in the day's other group matches.

Corinthians, with Ronaldo and Roberto Carlos in the starting lineup, opened up a six-point gap atop Group 1 after Dentinho's 34th-minute strike and an Elias goal in the closing stages against Racing. With one match group remaining, the Brazilian club has 13 points, with Racing on seven, Independiente Medellin on six and Cerro Porteno on one. Corinthians is in its centenary year and has signed World Cup winners Roberto Carlos and Ronaldo in an effort to win the Libertadores for the first time. In the last group matches, Cerro Porteno hosts Racing and Corinthians are at home to Independiente Medellin on April 22.

Damian Diaz opened the scoring for Universidad Catolica against Flamengo in the third minute. Francisco Silva doubled the lead with a left wing cross that curled beyond goalkeeper Bruno in the 46th minute. The result meant Universidad de Chile has secured qualification to the next round, while Catolica renewed its hopes of progression. Universidad de Chile has 11 points, four points clear of Flamengo and five ahead of Catolica. Flamengo visits Caracas and Catolica travel to Universidad next Wednesday.

Emelec claimed its first point of this year's tournament with a scoreless draw at home against Internacional of Brazil in Group 5. Deportivo Quito leads the section with 10 points, followed by Internacional on nine, Cerro on seven and Emelec on one. Cerro next week hosts Emelec and Internacional receives Deportivo Quito. The eight group winners and six best placed runners-up will qualify for the knockout round of 16, to start next month.

URUGUAY

Peñarol will meet bitter rivals Nacional for the Uruguayan league title after clinching the Clausura championship with three games to spare on Sunday. Regarded as the country's most popular side, Penarol came from a goal down to beat Fenix 2-1, extending to 12 successive wins their record start to the championship. They have 36 points, 10 more than second-placed Fenix.

Nacional, champions last season, are fourth with 19 points but qualify for the final between the country's "Big Two" as winners of the Apertura title in the first half of this season. Peñarol also secured a berth in the South American Libertadores Cup, a trophy they have won five times, next year. They last played in the group phase in 2004.

MEXICO

Mid-week results Wednesday in Mexican Clausura first-division football matches:

Tigres 2, Queretaro 1; Atlas 0, Puebla 2; San Luis 1, Estudiantes 1; Cd. Juarez 1, Chivas 0; Cruz Azul 2, Pachuca 2; Toluca 2, Atlante 0; Morelia 1, Jaguares 2; Santos 1, Monterrey 1; America 0, Pumas 0

Guadalajara, the only team to have so far qualified for the knockout phase of Mexico's Clausura championship, were upset 3-0 at home by Morelia on Saturday. The Chivas were caught at the top of the overall standings with 31 points by title holders Monterrey but remain runaway leaders of Group One, eight points ahead of Toluca and 11 clear of Atlas with three games to go. The top two in each of the three groups and the two next best placed teams overall qualify.

America beat Chiapas 3-1 away with two goals from Argentine playmaker Daniel Montenegro to remain in the hunt for a place in the last eight from Group Two. Montenegro opened the scoring at the Victor Manuel Reyna stadium in the southern state of Chiapas in the seventh minute, before he grabbed his second seven minutes later. The home side pulled one back after half an hour when midfielder Guillermo Cerda scored an own goal under pressure from Colombia striker Jackson Martinez. However, Chiapas were reduced to 10 men in the 73rd minute when Oscar Razo was sent off for a foul on Brazilian Rosinei and three minutes later, America made sure of the points with a goal from Antonio Lopez.

Toluca won 1-0 away to Queretaro behind closed doors due to a suspension on the home side's La Corregidora ground after fan violence in their previous match left several people injured. Monterrey, held 1-1 at home by lowly San Luis, lead Group Two by seven points from Morelia and 10 ahead of America. Santos Laguna, away to Pumas UNAM in Mexico City on Sunday, lead Group Three by one point from Cruz Azul and three ahead of Pumas. Cruz Azul had a weekend trip to forget to the Caribbean coast to face Atlante in Cancun. Before being beaten 1-0, players had belongings stolen from their bags during the flight. "After a quiet flight, on checking their possessions, they all realised that their padlocks had been broken and their bags opened where they had personal items," the club said in a statement.

Penarol celebrate winning the Uruguay championship.

Chivas Guadalajara, the top team all season, played without five of its regulars and was drubbed 3-0 by Morelia. Among the missing was Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez, who announced last week he is set to join Manchester United next season. Guadalajara has 31 points, the same as defending champion Monterrey which drew 1-1 on Saturday with San Luis. Both clubs are sure of making the playoffs. Morelia, Pumas and Santos have the next best point totals with 24. Santos lost 1-0 to Pumas on Sunday with veteran striker Francisco Palencia scoring from a 79th-minute penalty. Pumas was playing without three key players away with the national team— Pablo Barrera, Israel Castro and Efrain Juarez.

The Mexico squad will play four friendlies in May before traveling to Europe to pick its Europe-based players. Another low note to add to Mexico's Clausura season as many of the top league players are leaving their clubs to train with the national team. The World Cup is also cutting into the Copa Libertadores, Latin America's top club tournament and an equivalent of Europe's Champions League. The tournament will take a break after the quarterfinals and resume when the World Cup ends on July 11. This kind of scheduling would be unthinkable for the Champions League.

BRAZIL

In Brazil, forget about Ronaldinho because Brazilians really want young sensation Neymar in the World Cup. Neymar scored five times in Santos' 8-1 trashing of Guarani in the round of 16 of the Brazilian Cup on Wednesday, yet another impressive performance by the 18-year-old striker which has increased calls for his presence in the national team in South Africa. Until recently, two-time FIFA player of the year Ronaldinho was the one most Brazilians wanted to see back in the national team.

The AC Milan playmaker had been getting a push from Brazilian fans and media who wanted coach Dunga to summon him ahead of the World Cup, but the enthusiasm behind his name has steadily lost momentum after each impressive outing by Neymar and his Santos teammates, including Robinho, who scored twice on Wednesday and has virtually secured a World Cup spot. But not even Robinho is getting much attention in Brazil these days. Everybody is talking about Neymar.

Pele has said he would take the striker to the World Cup, and so did former Brazil stars Romario and Zico. Many current players are also behind the young sensation, and the Brazilian media is increasingly saying that Dunga should take him to South Africa. Neymar has played for Brazil Under-16s and Under-17s but never been summoned to the senior national team, and he is running out of time to make the final squad for the World Cup. Coach Dunga has praised the youngster, but he is more likely to stick to those players who have been with him since he took over the national team after the 2006 World Cup. Dunga said there will be Robinho, Adriano, Nilmar and Luis Fabiano in attack, and the coach has hinted there will be no more surprises to his squad.

The state tournaments in Rio de Janeiro and Sao Paulo are nearing its end. Vagner Love scored a goal in each half last Sunday to help Flamengo defeat Vasco da Gama 2-1 in the semifinals of the Rio Cup, the second stage of the Rio de Janeiro state championship. Flamengo will play Botafogo, which beat Fluminense 3-2 in Saturday's semifinal. Botafogo won the first stage, the Guanabara Cup, and can automatically secure the overall state title if it beats Flamengo in the Rio Cup next Sunday 18th (just after this edition's print).

Vagner Love scored a goal in each half Sunday to help Flamengo defeat Vasco da Gama 2-1 in the semifinals of the Rio Cup, the second stage of the Rio de Janeiro state championship. Flamengo will play Botafogo, which beat Fluminense 3-2 in Saturday's semifinal. Botafogo won the first stage, the Guanabara Cup, and can automatically secure the overall state title if it beats Flamengo in the Rio Cup next Sunday. Flamengo beat Vasco despite playing without star striker Adriano, who is nursing a back muscle injury. Love, in Brazil on a loan from CSKA Moscow, scored first at Maracana stadium after a breakaway in the 10th minute, dribbling past goalkeeper Fernando Prass inside the area before striking the ball into the far corner.

Vasco equalized with Thiago Martinelli's firm header from near the penalty spot following a corner in the 31st, but Love sealed Flamengo's victory by converting a penalty in the 72nd. The referee saw a foul by Vasco right back Marcio Careca on defender Leo Moura on the edge of the area, and Love calmly struck the ball into the back of the net. Flamengo had left back Juan sent off in the 79th, and Vasco's Martinelli was dismissed in the 90th after fouling Love to receive a second yellow card. Flamengo needs to beat Botafogo in next Sunday's Rio Cup final to earn the right to face Botafogo again in a two-leg state final. The winners of each stage face off for the overall title, but Botafogo can clinch it automatically if it also wins the Rio Cup.

"Now it's all or nothing for the title," Love said. "Hopefully Adriano will be back on the squad to help us." Flamengo, the current Brazilian champion, won the previous three Rio titles in finals against Botafogo, which is trying to win its first state title since 2006. Botafogo earned its spot in the Rio Cup final with a 3-2 win over Fluminense at Maracana on Saturday. Uruguay striker Sebastian "El Loco" Abreu scored in the fourth minute to score first for Botafogo, but former Lyon striker Fred hit in the target in the 27th and 30th minutes to put Fluminense ahead. Fred had already missed a penalty in the ninth, hitting the crossbar. Botafogo midfielder Fahel equalized in the 61st, and striker Caio scored the winner with a low shot from outside the area in the 71st. Fluminense players called for an offside by Argentine striker German Herrera, who was ahead of all defenders but let the ball go through his legs and into the goal.

In Sao Paulo, defender Durval scored a 90th-minute winner to give Santos a 3-2 win over Sao Paulo in the first leg of the Sao Paulo state tournament semifinals with a late winner after relinquishing a 2-0 first-half lead at Morumbi stadium. Durval scored with a header in the 90th minute, sealing Santos' victory ahead of next Sunday's second leg at Vila Belmiro stadium in Santos. The team made famous by Pele in the 1960s can advance to the final even if it loses by a single goal next weekend. Santos scored first in the 25th after an own-goal by Sao Paulo left back Junior Cesar. Veteran Santos defender Leo crossed a low shot into the area and Cesar inadvertently deflected the ball into the net with his right foot.

Sao Paulo went a man down in the 35th after striker Marlos fouled Robinho to receive a second yellow card. The team's chances of recovering appeared to take an even bigger hit when striker Andre added to Santos' lead in the 40th with a first-time shot from close range after a nice through ball by striker Neymar. But Sao Paulo came back strong in the second half in front of 35,000 fans at Morumbi stadium. Playmaker Hernanes scored with a low shot from the top of the area in the 53rd, and striker Dagoberto equalized with a header in the 67th after a cross from former AS Roma right back Cicinho. Santos was able to retake control of the match in the final minutes, and it paid off when Durval headed in a free kick taken by midfielder Madson. Santos is trying to win its first title since 2007, while Sao Paulo hasn't won the traditional tournament since 2005. Corinthians, the defending champion, failed to reach the semifinals despite having striker Ronaldo and veteran left back Roberto Carlos in the team.

Gremio Prudente and Santo Andre will play the other semifinal later Sunday. Santo Andre, which had the second-best campaign before the semifinals behind Santos, came from behind to beat Gremio Prudente 2-1 at Eduardo Jose Farah stadium. Diego put Prudente ahead in the 41st, but Santo Andre rallied with goals by Branquinho in the 50th and Rodriguinho in the 58th. Santo Andre, the 2004 Brazilian Cup winner, can advance to the final even if it loses the second match by a one-goal difference next Sunday at home.

ARGENTINA

League leaders Independiente stumbled to a 1-0 loss to San Lorenzo after Nelson Benitez scored the winner with a powerful early header. Independiente stayed on 27 points after 14 matches and still leads the Argentine Clausura tournament. But the loss opened the door for Godoy Cruz and Argentinos Juniors—both with 25 points—to move into first place with victories on Monday. Godoy Cruz faces Tigre and Argentinos Juniors play Colon in the 14th round. Last Sunday was a dud in Argentina. There were three matches and not a goal in any of them.

The results:
Lanús 0, Rosario Central 0;
Vélez Sarsfield 0, Banfield 0;
Atlético Tucumán 0, River Plate. 0.

In a highly anticipated match, Boca Juniors—19th in the 20-team league— faced Arsenal last Monday with new coach Roberto Pompei in charge. Pompei took after Abel Alves resigned. Alves, the third Boca coach to resign in 10 months, stepped down following a 3-0 loss to Colon last week on Thursday. Fierce cross-town rivals River Plate has appointed veteran coach Angel Cappa last week on Tuesday. The 63-year-old was unveiled officially at a press conference with club president Daniel Passarella replacing Leonardo Astrada, who was sacked last Monday after presiding over the club's worst series of results in its trophy-laden history. River Plate, twice crowned Copa Libertadores champions, lie 17th in the domestic title race while Cappa - whose mentor was 1978 World Cup winning coach Cesar Menotti - had guided Huracan into second spot in the last two seasons.

Hot Spurs hand Man U title lifeline

ENGLAND

Manchester United have been thrown a lifeline in the race for the Premier League title after Tottenham Hotspur inflicted a 2-1 defeat on front runners Chelsea and a late Paul Scholes goal gave United victory over Manchester City.

United's triumph and Chelsea's collapse has reduced the Blue's lead over the Red Devils to just one point heading into the final three league fixtures and, as a result, Sir Alex Ferguson's hope of a fourth successive title has regained momentum.

In the early kick-off, United were seemingly destined for a 0-0 draw against cross-town rivals City, but United– notorious for their late surges – conjured a goal with 20 seconds of injury time remaining when Scholes headed home to haul his side to within one point of Chelsea, who played Spurs in the later fixture.

United's moral-boosting victory would have heaped pressure on Carlo Ancelotti's side when they travelled to White Hart Lane later on Saturday afternoon, but in-form Spurs produced an excellent performance to knock the wind out of the sails of Chelsea's title tilt.

Spurs took the lead when Jermain Defoe converted from the spot following a John Terry handball before Gareth Bale opened up a two-goal cushion over their London rivals.

Terry escaped a booking in the penalty incident, but was shown two cautions in the space of three second-half minutes which gave Chelsea little hope of a comeback in the final stages.

They did find an injury time consolation through Frank Lampard, but it was too little too late.

It was the second time this week in which Harry Redknapp's team had dented the title hopes of its London rivals, with Spurs' mid-week victory over Arsenal effectively ruling them out of the title race.

Spurs now have a two-point breathing space over closest Champions League qualification rivals Manchester City in the coveted fourth place.

Bolton has all but guaranteed Premier League survival for another season when they turned around a one-goal deficit to defeat Stoke City 2-1 at Britannia Stadium.

The Trotters had gone four games without a goal and when Stoke took the lead through Dave Kitson, it seemed Owen Coyle's side would be dragged into the relegation quagmire once more.

But midfielder Matthew Taylor salvaged the match for the visitors in three dramatic late second-half minutes when he first levelled the scores on 85 minutes with a free-kick before netting the winner with two minutes of regulation time to play.

The Trotters are now seven points clear of 18th-placed Hull City, although the Tigers have a game in hand.

Burnley's hopes of survival were not so rosy on Saturday when their slim chance of avoiding the drop was further hampered by Sunderland's 2-1 victory at the Stadium of Light.

Burnley had recorded their first away victory of the season last week when they hammered Hull 4-1, but they were unable to repeat the feat and remain four points shy of safety.

Elsewhere, Hull recovered from the 4-1 loss to Burnley, but could only manage a 0-0 draw against Birmingham City, while Fulham and Wolverhampton Wanderers settled for the same scoreline.

Everton kept alive their lingering hopes of Europa League Football with an entertaining 3-2 victory over Blackburn.

Jermain Defoe hits home the penalty to give Spurs the lead against Chelsea.

GERMANY

Bayern Munich reignited their form in the race to the Bundesliga title, smashing seven goals past Hannover to regain their place at the top the table and two-point lead over second-placed Schalke on Saturday.

Munich went three nil up in the first 45 minutes through Ivica Olic, Arjen Robben and Thomas Muller, before all three players – in the exact same order – found the net again in the second half to give Munich a six goal lead, before Robben finished the rout and completed his hat-trick with the final goal of the 7-0 demolition.

The victory not only moved Munich clear of Schalke on points, but also significantly improved their goal difference.

Hannover fell into the bottom two after the humiliating defeat and with three games remaining to save their Bundesliga status things are looking grim for the club from Lower Saxony.

Schalke had gone top before Bayern's goal-feast, courtesy of a 3-1 victory over Borussia Monchengladbach, which will serve to maintain the pressure on Munich to win their remaining matches.

Third-placed Werder Bremen regained the final Champions League qualification spot after a 4-2 comeback victory away at Wolfsburg and Bayern Leverkusen slipped up against Stuttgart.

Bremen are effectively out of the title race, trailing Munich by nine points, but the side reclaimed third spot after Stuttgart beat ten man Leverkusen 2-1.

Leverkusen are equal on points with Werder, but have an inferior goal difference.

Meanwhile, Hamburg continued its poor streak of form, losing ground on a European place with a 1-0 home loss against Mainz.

FRANCE

Marseille have maintained the five-point lead at the summit of the French Ligue 1 table after gaining a controversial last-gasp penalty which helped them to a 2-1 victory against Boulogne.

Marseille had taken the lead in the first half through Mathieu Valbuena, but Boulogne equalised when Jeremy Blayac scored nine minutes from time.

But in the dying seconds of injury time, the visitors earned a dubious penalty when the ball struck Yoann Lachor's hand in the box and Taye Taiwo slotted home the spot-kick under immense pressure.

Second-placed Auxerre kept in touch with the leaders and their hold on second place with a 4-1 thrashing of nine-man Lorient.

Auxerre went 3-0 before Lorient were reduced to ten men, but the numerical disadvantage spurred Lorient to pull a goal back before their keeper Maxime Audard was sent off and Auxerre netted the resulting penalty to complete the result.

SPAIN

Barcelona's fierce rival Espanyol put a severe dent in the hopes of Pep Guardiola's side securing a consecutive Primer Division title after they were hoeld to a goalless draw.

However, the Catalan giants may see the result as a point gained rather than two lost after they played most of the final 30 minutes with a man down.

Victory would have moved Barca six points clear at the top of the La Liga table before Madrid played on Sunday night, but the reigning Spanish and European champions had Daniel Alves sent off and had to settle for a 0-0 stalemate in a closely-fought match.

Madrid had the chance to close the gap to four points on Sunday night.

EPL

	P	GD	PTS
1 Chelsea	35	54	77
2 Man Utd	35	51	76
3 Arsenal	34	40	71
4 Tottenham	34	28	64
5 Man City	34	27	62
6 Liverpool	34	21	56
7 Aston Villa	33	12	55
8 Everton	35	9	54
9 Birmingham	35	-8	47
10 Fulham	34	-2	43
11 Stoke	34	-4	43
12 Blackburn	35	-16	43
13 Sunderland	35	-7	41
14 Bolton	35	-25	35
15 Wolves	35	-23	34
16 Wigan	34	-34	32
17 West Ham	34	-16	31
18 Hull	34	-38	28
19 Burnley	35	-37	27
20 Portsmouth	34	-32	15

Birmingham 0-0 Hull
Blackburn 2-3 Everton
Fulham 0-0 Wolves
Man City 0-1 Man Utd
Stoke 1-2 Bolton
Sunderland 2-1 Burnley
Tottenham 2-1 Chelsea

SPL

	P	GD	PTS
1 Rangers	33	51	77
2 Celtic	34	28	69
3 Dundee Utd	33	12	59
4 Hibernian	34	3	50
5 Motherwell	33	1	48
6 Hearts	33	-7	44
7 St Johnstone	34	-4	42
8 Hamilton	34	-11	39
9 Aberdeen	34	-14	37
10 St Mirren	34	-13	29
11 Kilmarnock	34	-21	29
12 Falkirk	34	-25	28

Aberdeen 1-0 Falkirk
Celtic 3-2 Hibernian
Hamilton 3-0 Kilmarnock
St Johnstone 2-2 St Mirren

SERIE A

	P	GD	PTS
1 Inter Milan	34	35	70
2 Roma	33	23	68
3 AC Milan	33	21	64
4 Palermo	33	8	54
5 Sampdoria	33	3	54
6 Juventus	34	0	51
7 Napoli	33	4	49
8 Parma	33	-6	46
9 Fiorentina	33	7	46
10 Genoa	33	-1	45
11 Bari	33	-1	43
12 Chievo	34	-3	41
13 Cagliari	33	-1	40
14 Catania	33	0	39
15 Udinese	33	-6	38
16 Lazio	33	-5	37
17 Bologna	33	-14	35
18 Atalanta	33	-12	31
19 Siena	33	-22	29
20 Livorno	34	-30	26

Chievo 2-0 Livorno
Inter Milan 2-0 Juventus

BUNDESLIGA

	P	GD	PTS
1 Bayern Munich	31	37	63
2 Schalke 04	31	23	61
3 Werder Bremen	31	28	54
4 Bayer Leverkusen	31	21	54
5 Borussia Dortmund	30	13	52
6 VfB Stuttgart	31	8	50
7 Hamburg	31	15	48
8 Wolfsburg	31	5	46
9 Eintracht Frankfurt	30	-4	44
10 Mainz	31	-6	44
11 Cologne	31	-7	37
12 Borussia M'gladbach	31	-12	37
13 TSG Hoffenheim	30	-3	34
14 Nuremberg	31	-22	28
15 VfL Bochum	31	-24	28
16 SC Freiburg	31	-27	28
17 Hannover 96	31	-29	27
18 Hertha Berlin	30	-19	22

Bayern Munich 7-0 Hannover 96
Hamburg 0-1 Mainz
SC Freiburg 2-1 Nuremberg
Schalke 04 3-1 Borussia M'gladbach
VfB Stuttgart 2-1 Bayer Leverkusen
Wolfsburg 2-4 Werder Bremen
Cologne 2-0 VfL Bochum

LA LIGA

	P	GD	PTS
1 Barcelona	33	61	84
2 Real Madrid	32	56	80
3 Valencia	32	17	59
4 Sevilla	33	11	54
5 Mallorca	32	13	52
6 Villarreal	33	3	49
7 Athletic Bilbao	32	1	48
8 Getafe	32	6	47
9 Deportivo	32	-9	43
10 Atletico Madrid	33	-3	40
11 Osasuna	32	-7	38
12 Espanyol	33	-14	38
13 Almeria	32	-11	37
14 Sporting Gijon	33	-11	37
15 Racing	32	-12	35
16 Real Zaragoza	32	-18	33
17 Malaga	32	-5	32
18 Tenerife	32	-30	29
19 Valladolid	32	-22	28
20 Xerez	32	-26	26

Espanyol 0-0 Barcelona
Sevilla 3-0 Sporting Gijon
Villarreal 2-1 Atletico Madrid

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Serbia

Partizan season has been a disaster so far, and the side being knocked out of the Serbian Cup was salt in the wounds. Former Red Star player Dragan Mrdja netted twice while another former Red Star junior Mario Djurovski added a third in Vojvodina's 3:1 semi final win against Partizan.

Red Star Belgrade will be Vojvodina's opponenet in the final as they overcame OFK Beograd 1:0 in the 87 minute trhough Dejan Lekic. Red Star are looking good to take out the Cup and the League, the red and whites are five points clear at the top of the standings, although Partizan have the opputunity to cut that lead to only two points. Red Star failed to score in a goalless draw with Borac Cacak.

Partizan will be playing under a new coach when they take on Rad. Goran Stevanovic resigned as the clubs manager after the sides loss in the Cup. The Partizan fans called for the coaches head and he blamed them in his resignation. Stevanovic constantly found excuses in his sides poor performances and blamed referees and the football federation. Serbia U/17 coach Aleksandar Stanojevic will take charge of the team, signing a two year contract.

Former Real Madrid player Perica Ognjenovic scored twice in Jagodina's 4:1 away win against BSK while Nemanja Milic scored two for OFK Beograd in their 2:0 win against Mladi Radnik.

Croatia

Hajduk has gone second on the table after a terrific free kick from Senad Ibricic was the winner against Sibenik. Karlovac are climbing the table after an impressive 3:0 hammering of Cibalia. Lajtman scored two for the home side who are now three points off second place.

Dinamo will have to wait another week to celebrate the title as they where held by Igor Stimac's Zagreb as the points where shared. Former Dinamo striker Vugrinec cancelled out Badelj's opener with eight minutes remaining.

Dinamo take on Cibalia next week in the derby of the round while Hajduk are at home against surprise package Karlovac.

Mario Mandzukic and Dario Vugrinec are on top of the scorers charts with 14 goals each, followed by Morales on 13 and Senad Ibricic who has 12.

Bosnia

Zeljeznicar are three points clear on top of the table after their derby win against Borac Banjaluka.

Two goals by former Serbia u21 international Lazar Popovic sealed the win for Zeljo in a 4:2 thriller.
Zeljo are now on route for their first title in almost ten years.

Zrinjski thumped bottom placed Modrica 4:0 to go third as Sarajevo played out a goalless draw with Celik.

Zeljeznicar and Borac will meet in the Cup final as both sides progressed after easy semi final wins.
The two sides have been a class above the rest of the league and are on good ground as European football comes along next season after recent poor performances by Bosnian clubs in continental competitions.

Greece

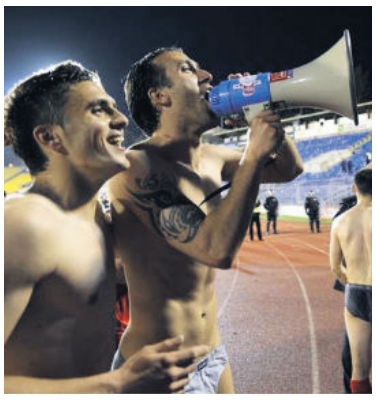
Panathinaikos celebrate their 20th league title, their first in six years.

Olympiakos has been the dominant team in Greek football and they had a season to forget going through two coaches and are now under caretaker Bozidar Bandovic who is the clubs scout.

The green side of Athens has played excellent in the second half of the season and thanks to slip ups by Olimpiakos they will be taking the trophy from their fierce rivals.

Panathinaikos will be playing in next seasons Champions League group stages while Olympiakos, PAOK, AEK and ARIS will contest a playoff for the remaining European positions.

Cisse has been a valuable asset



Mrdja leads the celebrations

BOSNIA

	P	Pts
1Zeljeznicar Sarajevo	23	47
2Borac Banja Luka	23	44
3Zrinjski Mostar	23	38
4Sarajevo	23	38
5Siroki Brijeg	22	37
6Velez Mostar	23	36
7Leotar Trebinje	23	33
8Zvijezda Gradacac	23	30
9Celik Zenica	23	29
10Travnik	23	29
11Olimpik Sarajevo	22	28
12Rudar Prijedor	23	28
13Sloboda Tuzla	22	27
14Slavija Sarajevo	22	26
15Laktasi	23	22
16Modrica Maxima	23	21

CROATIA

	P	GD	Pts
1 Dinamo	26	+53	60
2 Hajduk	26	+22	48
3 Cibalia	26	+19	48
4 Karlovac	26	+12	45
5 Šibenik	26	-2	43
6 Osijek	26	+12	42
7 Slaven Belupo	26	+2	41
8 Lokomotiva	26	-1	39
9 Rijeka	26	+4	33
10 Zadar	26	-13	30
11 Istra 1961	26	-13	27
12 Inter Zaprešic	26	-14	27
13 Varteks	26	-12	26
14 Medimurje	26	-22	26
15 Zagreb	26	-10	24
16 Croatia Sesvete	26	-37	14

GREECE

	P	GD	Pts
1 Panathinaikos FC	29	36	67
2 Olympiacos FC	29	28	61
3 PAOK FC	29	22	59
4 AEK Athens FC	29	10	50
5 Aris Thessaloniki	29	8	46
6 FC Kavala	29	-1	38
7 Iraklis FC	29	0	37
8 Larissa FC	29	-10	37
9 Ergotelis FC	29	-1	36
10 Asteras Tripolis	29	-5	36
11 Panionios GSS	29	-1	36
12 Atromitos FC	29	-4	35
13 Skoda Xanthi	29	-11	32
14 Levadiakos FC	29	-14	31
15 PAS Giannina	29	-18	28
16 Panthrakikos	29	-39	12

SERBIA

	P	GD	Pts
1. Crvena zvezda	24	46:12	62
2. Partizan	23	45:12	57
3. OFK Beograd	24	32:26	40
4. Spartak	23	28:19	39
5. Vojvodina	23	34:23	34
6. Metalac	24	20:26	34
7. Jagodina	24	28:25	33
8. Javor	24	18:18	32
9. Smederevo	24	21:26	28
10. Borac	24	16:28	28
11. Rad	23	27:32	25
12. Napredak	24	24:30	24
13. Hajduk	24	23:35	24
14. BSK	24	19:32	22
15. Mladi radnik	24	16:31	22
16. Cukaricki	24	19:41	21

PAO fans celebrate in Athens

Time to blow some bubbles!

NRL Round 6

Melbourne Storm v Manly Sea Eagles
Etihad Staduim
Monday, 7:00PM AEST

Match odds

Melbourne: *1.45 centrebet*
Manly: *3.15 betfair*

First half result
Melbourne: *1.63 centrebet*
Manly: *2.39 sportingbet*

First team to score
Melbourne: *1.70 centrebet*
Manly: *2.15 sportingbet*

Last played: *Melbourne 40 def. Eagles 12 – 11/09/2009 @ Etihad Stadium.*

Head to head – This ground:
Melbourne 2 – Eagles 0

Melbourne last 10 games:
W34 W30 W28 W30 W7 W4 W6 W6 W13 L4

Manly last 10 games:
W32 W4 W2 W34 L28 L4 L4 W24 W8 W28

This shapes as a close encounter, with the Storm returning home after their first loss of the season. The Storm was very good in the first half on the Gold Coast but very pedestrian in the second. The players might be excused, though, as they've had a tough start to the year. Manly, on the other hand, are in form and full of confidence after beating the Warriors and the Sharks these past two weeks. Despite conceding the first try, Manly ran away for a commanding 40-12 win over the hapless Sharks at Brookvale last week.

The Storm have a great record at Etihad Stadium and should do enough after losing last week. However, the Eagles are in great form and should come out firing. Take the Eagles to score the first points of the game – 2.15 (sportingbet) in a multi.

EPL

Liverpool v West Ham
Anfield
Tuesday, 5:00AM AEST

Match odds

Liverpool: *1.41 betfair*
Draw: *5.00 betfair*
West Ham: *9.95 betfair*

First half result
Liverpool: *1.87 betfair*
Draw: *2.62 betfair*
West Ham: *8.60 betfair*

The Reds took the field without Fernando Torres last week and, as usual this season, struggled to score without him.

Admittedly, they did find Mark Schwarzer in fine form for the 0-0 draw with Fulham. West Ham scrambled an important 1-0 win over Sunderland to ease their relegation concerns.

Liverpool will be too good for West Ham at home. Take Liverpool to win the first half 1.87 (betfair) in a multi.

Can the Sea Eagles combat the Storm early?

The Reds should be too good for the Mighty Hammers, at least for the first half anyway...

The Tip

Best multi:

•NRL – Manly to score first points against Melbourne – 2.15 (sportingbet)

•EPL – Liverpool to win first half against West Ham – 1.87 (betfair)

Dividend: 4.00

With Roy Hay

The rise and fall of Slavia

Slavia was one of the great names of football in the 1960s becoming the national club champion in 1963 and fielding some of the best players of that generation.

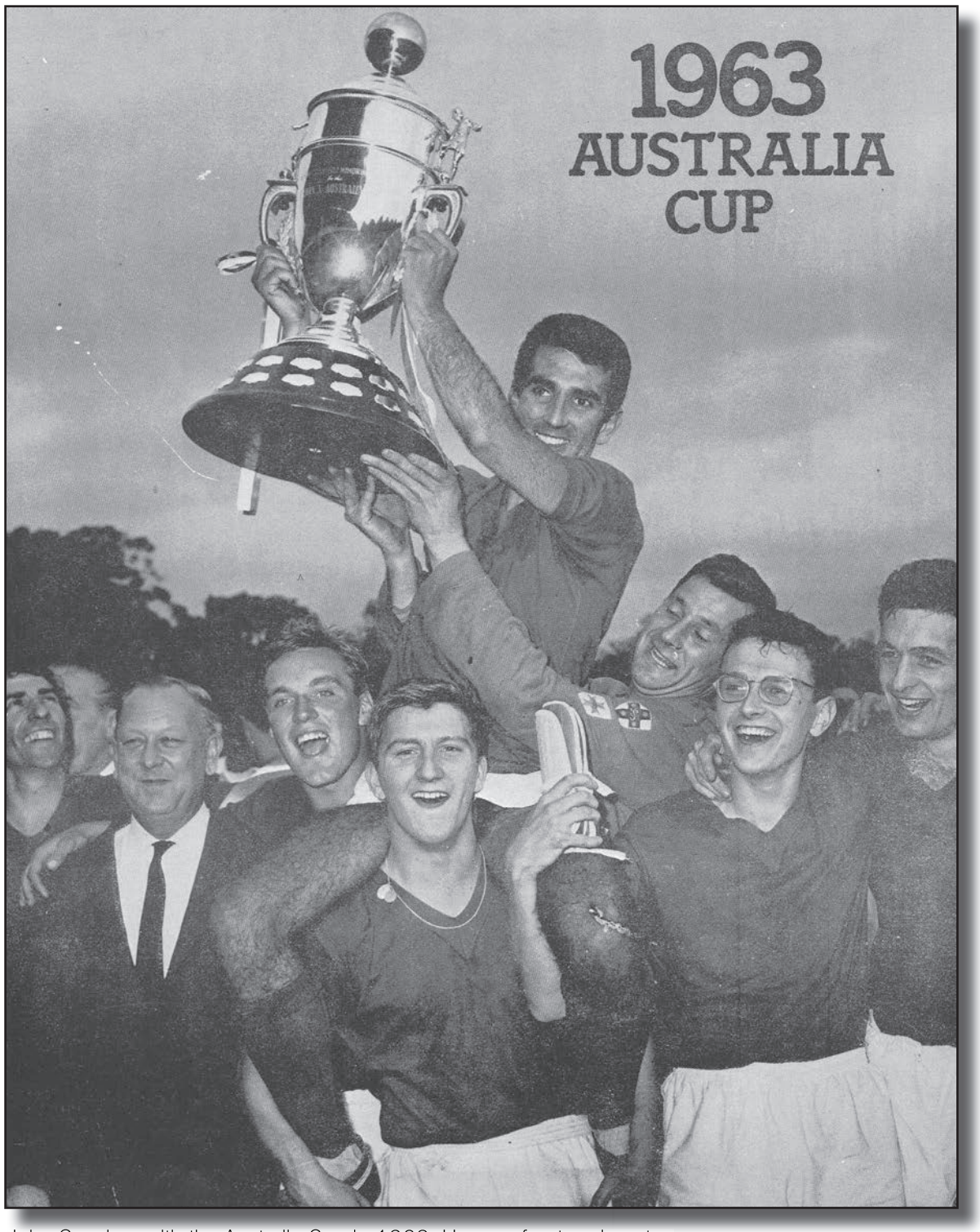
The Slavia club was formed in 1950 by Czech migrants to Australia and played its first competitive league game in the Fourth Division of the Victorian Amateur Soccer Federation League on 7 April 1951 against Heidelberg, another newcomer. Slavia came out on top by four goals to one. In that first season the club won 8 games and lost 6, finishing third behind Polonia and Ulsterville. Maccabi ended its interest in the Dockerty Cup in the second round. Slavia shared a ground at Yarra Park with White Eagles. Two years later Slavia won the fourth division, and in 1954 it finished on top of division three on goal difference from Flinders Naval Depot and Hellenic in one of the closest finishes on record. All three teams had 31 points from 18 games, 13 clear of Sandringham in fourth spot.

In 1955 Slavia completed a hat-trick of championships and thus promotion to the first division. This time it was six points clear of Prahran, the runner-up. The club president was M Roznetinsky and the secretary H Fuksa. J Roessler was the coach. Now the club had moved to a new ground at Murphy Reserve in Port Melbourne. Slavia began its first season in Division One with a one-all draw against JUST on 31 March 1956. Among the players who turned out for Slavia that year were Ray Barotajs, A Terek, Kodak, Roznetinski, Bob Zablocki, Kotatko, Billy Bell, Joe Lachman, Ted Bialek, Kostromin, Issy Ressler, Steiner, Brenner, John Dickson, George Rakic, Mario Busidoni, Vince Varcirca, Karl Engelbogen, Joe Gottesman, Colin Brady, Kriz and Volny. Barotajs was capped by Victoria against New South Wales that year at only 19 years old and was an outstanding keeper. Slavia came third in the league only a couple of points adrift of Juventus and Hakoah. It was third again in 1957, but dropped to seventh in 1958, the first year of the Victorian State League.

Slavia bumped along in mid-table in the league in the first half of the 1960s. In 1966 however it had a brilliant year pushing South Melbourne Hellas to within a couple of points at the head of the ladder. The team that year included John Young, Ray Barotajs, Nigel Shepherd, David High, Tommy Randles, Billy Cook, John Goodwin, David Short, Peter Laraman, Sandy Jones, Bill Savage, Charlie McCorquodale, Harper, Hall, Grant McGregor, Peter Lowen. So the playing staff was no longer Czech. But that league success was short-lived and in 1970 Slavia was relegated to the Metropolitan League. The peripatetic club had now moved to Essendon and appeared under the unwieldy title of Essendon Sunshine Heights Slavia.

If the league performances were up and down, it was as a cup side that Slavia made its mark in the 1960s. It won the Dockerty Cup in 1964, 1965 and 1967 and was runner-up in 1966. In 1963 it took out the Australia Cup coming from fourth in the First Division and in 1967 it won the Ampol Cup and the reserves trophy, the Armstrong Cup. Hammy McMeechan helped Slavia win its first Dockerty Cup in 1964 but then was bought by Croatia. His team-mates that season included Ray Barotajs, Fred Vine, Nigel Shepherd, A Zanatta, John Auchie, Billy Cook, John Sanchez, Pat McDonagh, David Meechan, Tommy Harper and Charlie McCorquodale. John Hammerling coached the team. It was in 1964 that Slavia took on and beat the might of the VFL in a charity soccer match. Jack Dyer had described soccer as a game for big girls, but the Slavia boys won 8-0.

In 1972, Slavia won Metropolitan Division One and so resumed its place in the State League which it held through the rest of the decade. In 1974 the squad included Lou Ivanoff, Jim Campbell, Jim Tansey, Frank Campbell, Steve McCombe, John Howie, Tony Harris, Jim Train, Ian Humble, Bobby Kent, George Train. John Sanchez, who played in the 1960s and won the Argus medal, was now coaching Slavia. Jim Tansey took the Argus medal in 1976, the second Slavia player to do so. But relegation in 1980 was followed by a further drops in 1982 and last place finishes in the next two years at which point the club effectively folded, though Laverton Park, which now plays in Division One of the Provisional League, claims a linkage to the defunct Slavia.



John Sanchez with the Australia Cup in 1963, Hammy front and centre. Photo: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University.

Slavia's brief history

Year	League	Position
1951	Fourth Division	3
1952	Fourth Division	5
1953	Fourth Division	1
1954	Third Division	1
1955	Second Division	1
1956	First Division	3
1957	First Division	3
1958	State League	7
1959	State League	5
1960	State League	6
1961	State League	6
1962	State League	7
1963	State League	4
1964	State League	5
1965	State League	4
1966	State League	2
1967	State League	7
1968	State League	8
1969	State League	10
1970	State League	12
1971	Metro Div 1	3
1972	Metro Div 1	1
1973	State League	9
1974	State League	5
1975	State League	8
1976	State League	8
1977	State League	2
1978	State League	5
1979	State League	11
1980	State League	12
1981	Metro Div 1	11
1982	Metro Div 1	14
1983	Metro Div 2	14
1984	Metro Div 2	14

30 year commemorative program. Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University.

John Sanchez (left) of Slavia in a heading duel. Sanchez won the Argus medal in 1963. Photo: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University.

Who says soccer is a game for girls? Gary Cole and Jim Tansey can smile about their injuries. Photo: Les Shorrock collection. Deakin University.

KAT'S CORNER

With Peter Katholos

Australian international with 25 caps, Australian Player of the Year, winner of 4 NSL championships, 3 NSL Cups, 557 first grade games, 97 goals from 1976-1996. Played for St George, Sydney Olympic, Apia, Marconi, Melita Eagles and Larissa (Greece). Rated as one of the most technically gifted players ever produced in Australia. Now involved with player development and player management. www.technikfootball.com

Zeljko Kalac

The big man has come out telling us that Australia needs a new breed of coaches in the A-League.

The way he said to sack most of them is not the answer, but what he said is to give ex-Socceroos coming back to Australia a chance to coach in their specialist position, at least that is what I think he meant. Anything other than that is not totally correct, Spider!

You seem to forget the players coming through to the A-League ranks are players that are already shaped, not much can be taught to a player at this level. The coaching that matters most must be done earlier in the career path and at the age of 18 a player should be ready to play first grade. How many players coming through the ranks are ready to play first grade at 18? And, this is where the real problem lies. The fact of the matter is that we must invest in coaches who can coach our young players better.

The coaches at A-League level are doing best with what they have at their disposal, although I believe that many of them don't have the guts to give young players a go, and they should! But, should they be teaching them how to cross a ball properly and accurately? Or, other basic skills like control, or marking? No, of course not!

Not all ex players can actually coach. Just remember that special qualities are required to coach a team successfully. Trust me, I know, and I have coached successfully, although at State League level. It is hard work, buddy! Now Spider, I like how you have came out and said your piece, but give it a little thought next time, as you will be caught in the cross fire.

You have a go at Ange Postecoglou and Dave Mitchell. Why? OK, we know about Ange's position at the Australian youth team, but was it entirely his fault that hardly any decent players came through those Australian youth teams during in that era? He selected what was available at AIS level and that was partly due to the instructions to pick players from government funded AIS. Who coached the so called elite players of Australian football at the AIS? Did you ever ask? Well our best youngsters were coached at the AIS by Steve O'Connor. I played with Steve, and although he was a good defender, he was limited to teach these players how to go forward, be creative and score goals. Sorry Steve, that is the truth! Don't have a go at only Ange, although he must take a share of the blame for agreeing to pick such players.

If I where the coach I would pick players that can play, have excellent technique and a good football brain. And there were many outside the AIS! I would not have picked them if I was Australian youth coach because at the end of the day, it reflects on the coach. In this case it reflected on Ange Postecoglou. Know the facts, Spider, and just because your teammate Craig Moore had a fall out with Ange Postocoglou, who came in at the Brisbane Roar, is not enough ammunition to discredit anyone.

I can't understand why you get involved in such politics. Do your homework next time mate, or feel free to give me a call!

David Mitchell has done a great job at Perth after the Ron Smith era. What is the problem there? The bloke played for the Socceroos, played in Holland, England and Scotland, and has had success in his coaching career, so why you have a dig at Dave?

Both of the examples that you used are not warranted. Yes, we need new blood, that I agree, but we need calculated decision makers and blokes to prove themselves in the coaching ranks, even if they are former Socceroos. They must first coach at State League to prove themselves, and if they can cut it there, then there's no reason why they can't go on to coach at A-league level. Ante Milicic is a great example.

You have served your country well. You played in Holland, Belgium and Italy - as mainly the second keeper at AC Milan – but let people remember you for the good things. Don't get involved with the politics to push other agendas. You were a good keeper and I respect that, but in my view, to have a go at the coaches coaching A-League is not justified.

Let's see, Miron Bleiberg had the Gold Coast playing some great football and performed very well in their first year; Ricky Herbert did a fantastic at Wellington; Ernie Merrick also did a great job with Victory; Aurelio Vidmar's Adelaide had an indifferent year with results, but is still in with a shout in the Asian Champions League; Vitislav Lavicka was very impressive first year at Sydney FC winning the title; Branko Culina's style of football was enjoyable to watch at the Jets and at least he gave young players a go; David Mitchell steadied the ship at Perth and were far from the basket case they had been; Ange Postecoglou took over the reign mid-season at the Roar, after the turmoil with the Frank Farina sacking, and Ange's appointment can only be fairly judged next season; Ian Ferguson's first year at Fury was a test, but under the circumstances competed very well.

Just remember, Barcelona v inter Milan, Jose Mourinho will surely test them! Barcelona to win but only just, and Bayern Munich to overcome Lyon.

See you all again next week!

Spider makes a web!

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THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas

J WALKER SCOREBOARD 1-6

Starting of this week, despite the effects of volcano dust floating over the World's atmosphere, all aboard Katsa's 707 we go to the UK, where..

Chelsea have gone from sitting in the Box Seat to with the EPL Championship, to now hanging on for Dear Life, as Sir Alex's Manchester United are breathing down their necks, with 3 Rounds to play.

Man U gave new meaning to the term, "It's not over till the Fat Lady Sings", where Scholes popped up late into injury time, to slot home a perfect Header, to give Sir Alex a Happy End against his arch rivals, Manchester City.

This put Chelsea under the pump, and they went down to Spurs 2-1.

A photo finish is on the Cards with 3 Rounds to Play.

Will Sir Alex become the first Manager ever, in all English Leagues to win 4 Titles on the trot?

Time will tell.

The Scorer awoke me early doors on Sunday and asked me if I felt that his Services was required, as he was of the belief that a big wicket was about to fall in the VPL.

After abusing the living crap out if him, as the worst time to contact me is early on a Sunday Morning, as Katsa Vs J Walker can get quite messy on a Saturday night, I asked him to take some Nasal Spray Technology, and wait a few Days, he never knows, he may get Lucky, as one Gaffer is under more pressure than my Liver after a big night.

Over to the local scene we go, where the South Melbourne Vs Heidelberg result will be settled by the Legal Eagles employed by the House of Darebin, now located on the Boulevard of Broken Dreams.

It is alleged that some fans got a touch excited last weekend and invaded the pitch after South equalised very late in the Match.

This kind of behaviour has no place in Victorian Soccer, or anywhere else for that matter, as Fan's misguided enthusiasm only lands their Clubs into Hot Water.

Unfortunately this is becoming a common theme, where so called Fans who claim that they love their Club, show it in the wrong way, as their behaviour does more harm to their Club, than good.

Many volunteers spend countless hours and money in order to run their respective Clubs, and when these types of nasty incidents occur, they then have to front up to a Tribunal, to face charges caused by their Fans, with a real threat of the outcome being a loss of points, or a heavy fine.

This then puts the playing group under pressure, as these guys who have sweated to grind out results, will then have to do it all again to earn the points that may be potentially lost at the tribunal.

I have seen many of these so called passionate fans at work over the years, where they believe that the solution to a bad result, a bad referees decision, or anything else that does not tickled their fancy on the day, is to adopt a tribal behaviour, with violence being number one on the charts.

People who do all of the above have no place in Soccer, and the sooner that Clubs identify who these people are, and ban them from matches, the better!

Until Next Week

This is Katsa- just as you have known him.

And remember, keep your friends close and your Club Powerbrokers closer

NB: Due to the editor running out of time to put a action snap in the Queensland page this week, here it is in Ktasa's Column! Brett McDonald's photo shows Angelo Serafin and Mitch Cooper fly for the ball in the 7-4 win by FNQ Bulls over the Qld Academy of Sport. Ahh, Queensland...! Thanks Katsa!!!

BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric

After events last week I have contacted SMTV to see if I can use some of their footage in the Australian football hooligan movie I am writing/producing. I've got a few pitch invasions in the script, but am most looking forward to filming a scene where a hooligan picks up a pumpkin seed sellers cart and starts swinging it around his head as if he is competing in the hammer throw.

It will be interesting to see the FFV's response to the incident. Are St Albans the only club they are prepared to come down hard on? Is crowd trouble as big an issue to them than paying fines on time or getting a table for Gold medal Night?

After a 0-2 loss to Bentleigh Greens, Stuart Munro must be under more pressure than a button on Clive Palmer's suit. Last season's beaten Grand Finalists have certainly gotten off to a terrible start this time in. The already big crowds at George Andrews Reserve may be swelled as the prospective coaching vultures begin to swoop.

Last week I pointed out that the Victorian team at the Under 13's Boys National Championships failed to take out the title despite being unbeaten, due to the distribution of bonus points which got NSW Metro over the line. Now is it right that the NSW Metro coach should be a member of the FFA Technical Committee which awards those bonus points? Is that the FFA Tecnical Committee or a ASF/Soccer Australia one because from where I sit, despite a proclaimed revolution, very little seems to have changed.

It's probably no co-incidence that the NSW Project 22 had 3 players selected in the All-Star squad either, given that the NSW Metro Coach/FFA Technical Committee member is also the FNSW High Performance Manager in charge of it all. Hopefully all these selections are based on merit, not justifying programs, projects and curriculums.

Kevin Muscat admitted during the week that he did not enjoy playing in Asia. When you look at Melbourne Victory's results in the Asian Champions League one is left to wonder when did Victory ever really PLAY in Asia? We are still waiting for them to do something other than whinge.

Park Life: Scenes from one of the showpiece matches of the VPL. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

KRNCEVIC'S CRUNCHLINES

With Eddie Krncevic

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dimano Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium.

Greetings football fans and welcome to another dose of Krncevic's Crunchlines.

Bob Jane Shame

I was actually in attendance at Bob Jane Stadium the previous Sunday, keen to watch the derby between traditional rivals, South Melbourne and Heidelberg United, in what should have been a fitting fixture to farewell the proud venue before it undergoes a multimillion dollar makeover.

I don't believe I am alone when I say how appalling and disappointing it was to witness some of the unacceptable behaviour displayed by some so called 'fans' who chose to ruin the spectacle and tarnished the game's reputation once again, forcing the match to be abandoned after storming the pitch shortly after Carl Recchia scored a late equaliser for the home side.

These louts, who are forever keeping the game from going forward and insist on showing how feral they are, need to be banned from life from attending VPL games in the future.

The clubs are struggling enough as it is with finances and image problems without having to cope with a double whammy from these selfish individuals, who will no doubt now bring upon fines and undeserved penalties for their clubs.

When are these people ever going to learn? Where is the respect? If they really love their club and are so passionate about their colours, why do they not think about the consequences their club will suffer thanks to their actions?

It is an absolute crying shame that an occasion which should have been enjoyed as a historic football spectacle was yet again spoilt by mindless idiots, leaving another embarrassing blight on the local game.

It was also bewildering to see one of the security guards let one of the offenders go free after he had been cornered. Why? What on earth was he waiting for? The security guard had one of the perpetrators in a position to extend the full force of the infringement, but for some unexplainable reason nothing more became of the situation which completely defeated the purpose of having these personnel present to carry out their duty. If that particular security guard wants to pick up some easy money at a football match, I suggest in future he applies for a job at the food stand selling dim sims.

We are meant to be members of the football family, but these problem children of the extended dysfunctional football family need to be stamped out and dealt with appropriately. There is no place for them in the modern game.

Mind you, it is not the first time we have seen such unacceptable behaviour this year, as incidents have been reported at other venues in the VPL, some involving scuffles, police intervention and hurls of racism.

This hooligan element and attitude is detrimental to the development and broadening appeal of the game.

I honestly don't like wasting my column space harking on about the behaviour of the hooligan element at our football games. We have got better things to talk about. However, it is an issue that has been brewing for some time and it needs to be addressed.

The clubs, the federation, the fans, the coaches and the players have all got a role to play in all of this.

Don't accept crass anti-social antics as being normal. Let's join together and rid this ugly element from our game. By all means, keep the passion and love your club, but lose the language and show some respect to one another. We are meant to be football lovers after all.

Griffiths Brothers

I managed to watch Melbourne Victory's Asian Champions League match against China's Beijing Guoan during the week, and it was pretty clear once again that our Asian counterparts had the better of the game. I thought Diego Ferreira did well when he came on and it was good to see the youngster was given a chance, but overall the Chinese were a class above.

I thought Joel Griffiths showed some great touches and was constantly involved in the visitor's attempts at going forward. In my opinion, Joel should be at the forefront of Pim Verbeek's mind when considering Socceroo firepower for South Africa. You can throw his brother's hat, Ryan, into that ring as well.

With no Mark Viduka this time around, and Harry Kewell still on the road to recovery, are we going to once again be forced to rely on the goals to come from midfielder Tim Cahill?

John Aloisi is not quite the same player he was four years ago and is also still recovering from injury; Josh Kennedy may do well against Asian opponents, but against the solid defending of Germany, Serbia and Ghana he might struggle to make an impact on his own up front; Scott McDonald is still searching to find his international shooting boots and the moment may have passed him.

The Chinese Super League starts in February and ends in November, stopping only for a short break to accommodate the World Cup this year. The Griffiths brothers will be match fit and ready to go come June, and will not have endured the scramble like half of the other Socceroo squad of trying to find a scrimmage somewhere else to gain match fitness.

PFA UK Tour

The PFA still has a few player vacancies left for a UK Tour it will be undertaking in September and October. Matches have been organised against Celtic, Hearts, Fulham and Sheffield United. Any interested players should contact PFA Tour Director, Tolis Marangoudis, on the toll free number 1800 308 817.

Joel Griffiths in action for Beijing against the Victory last Wednesday night. PHOTO: SYDNEY LOW

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MACKENZIE AT LARGE

An Occasional Offering from Craig MacKenzie

Now the referees get toey

CHRIS Bambridge wasn't exactly overjoyed when I contacted him last Friday and asked him to comment on murmurings of discontent with the referees' ranking system.

"If any referees have gone to the media about this then I'll wash my hands of them," said Bambridge, FFV referee manager.

What? You mean once someone becomes a referee they have to relinquish a basic civil liberty? Come on Chris, that's not reasonable.

Here we go again. Just because FFV board members are supposed to give up their right to freedom of speech by agreeing to what amounts to a charter of secrecy doesn't mean that referees have to follow suit.

I also put it to Bambridge that claims had been made that the 5% Match Official Development Levy was going into consolidated revenue.

Bambridge refused to comment on this issue but FFV finance manager Kenny Lim told me: "As far as I know internally Chris is very, very particular about this figure and how this money is used."

The money appears in the revenue side of the 2009 financial statements as referees levies and fees (referees pay FFV a minimum of $130 a year for the privilege of being registered).

A question has been raised as to why this figure was $202,027 in 2008 and $120,960 last year. A perfectly reasonable question from my perspective but one that remains unanswered.

It's also been suggested to me that the angst is caused by older refs getting uppity about being dropped down the rankings and that their actions are based on self-interest.

Whatever the truth of such matters clearly a schism has developed.

Take the case of experienced whistler Senko Rastocic. No longer a Premier League ref, Rastocic received his first appointment in four weeks last weekend, a Provisional Three clash between Eltham Redbacks and White Star Dandenong.

"It's a deplorable situation and a gross waste of talent," was how one member of the fraternity described Rastocic's situation.

Bambridge told me that he'd had contact with Rastocic and that the latter's inactivity was due to a fault within the automated appointments system.

Claims are also being made that the ranking system is not transparent. "Not transparent? It's downright opaque," my source added.

Bambridge rejected those claims outright, pointing to a 25 November 2009 posting in the referees' section of FFV's website entitled "Guidelines on Referee Rating and Ranking in Senior Football."

Bambridge claims that this document outlines the ranking system's machinations and was sceptical as to whether or not those who "have broken ranks" had even read it.

So I settled down on Saturday morning and read the document closely. And again. And once more for luck.

And I still don't have the foggiest idea what specific percentage of inspection reports, what specific percentage of selection or performance in key issue matches, what specific percentage of club feedback, and what specific percentage of training and meeting attendance go to make up a referee's ranking.

Maybe there are no specific percentages and maybe, just maybe, it's this lack of specificity that is at the heart of the discontent that I encounter regularly when I speak to referees.

He's made of the Wright stuff

IN THE early hours of Sunday morning the Wright family from Langwarrin huddled around a computer monitor living every second of a young man's dream.

They were glued to the Preston North End website's coverage of the club's away fixture against Coventry City.

Last Friday Preston manager Darren Ferguson announced that 17-year-old Bailey Wright would be in the first team squad to face the Sky Blues.

During Ferguson's pre-match press briefing he confirmed Wright's elevation brought on in part by the ineligibility of Elliott Ward and the absence on compassionate leave of Youl Mawene.

"Young Bailey the centre half will be involved on the bench on Saturday as he has done very well and trained very well," said Ferguson.

"Every time that I have seen him he has impressed me and he has a fantastic attitude.

"I have no problem sticking him in as he has got a great temperament."

As things transpired Preston came away from the contest with a 1-1 draw and although Wright warmed up a few times throughout the second half he never got to make his debut.

The former Victorian Institute of Sport scholarship holder and Joeys' defender left State One outfit Langwarrin to take up a two-year scholarship offer with Preston last July.

He was in limbo for a couple of months awaiting an international clearance but once that came through a series of outstanding performances in the youth team propelled him into the reserves where he really caught the eye of both Ferguson and first team coach David Unsworth.

"Ferguson genuinely likes Bailey. He's spent a lot of time with him over the past month and had quite a few one-on-one conversations with him and David Unsworth has taken a shine to him as well," said Andy Wright, father of the talented teen.

"He was a bit disappointed at not getting a run against Coventry but he was delighted to be involved at that level.

"As you know ability is one thing but opportunity can be everything and Preston have really looked after him and given him the opportunity to develop."

When Bailey Wright and his teammates got back to Preston the youngster headed out to a favourite Chinese restaurant.

There he discovered another feature of professional football as fellow diners recognised him and congratulated him on being part of that day's first team squad.

He's not just Bailey Wright from Australia, one of a number of hopefuls brought through the club's development program, now he's Bailey Wright from Preston North End.

Who knows, one day he may be known as Bailey Wright, Socceroo.

Langwarrin's Bailey Wright

goal!

WRIGHT HEADS TO UK

Bailey Signs Two-Year Deal With Preston

Reveal the Beauty Within...

From this.....The GW Football Feature on Bailey Wright, Vol.5 No. 3 Monday 9 March 2009.

To this.....Bailey Wright on the ball for Preston North End. And In just nine months!

Grim future for A-League?

I'D LIKE nothing better than to end on a happy note but I can't ignore the Hyundai A-League predicament given that reports are circulating of a $20 million annual loss.

If someone had asked me a couple of seasons back to compare the old national league with the Frank Lowy version I would have laughed in their face.

I'm not laughing now. I have been speaking to a Sydney-based consultant who has worked with Football Federation Australia and is scathing in his criticism of the direction taken by Lowy and his cohorts with their A-League model.

"They established a product run by people who lacked football knowledge and therefore had no respect for the history of the product and were totally dismissive of the existing football culture," he said.

"I found that extremely worrying at the time and said as much but no-one listened.

"Look at the situation we are in now, a situation that is clearly unsustainable.

"There are ways to engage the community but we have failed miserably in establishing ownership or equity for the fans.

"I look at the financials from a KPMG perspective and I am genuinely worried about the league's future. It is not fiscally sensible to continue to run at such a huge loss."

In coming weeks GW will look at the A-League dilemma through the eyes of various stakeholders. It should make for interesting reading.

A-League crowds have been on a steady decline. Watch this space in next week's GW for more revelations on where the game is heading...

Dutch Master comes to Oz

By Alex Milic

As a player John van't Schip was an Eredivisie league champion in 1982, 1983, 1985 and 1990 and cup champion in 1983, 1986 and 1987. He helped Ajax win the 1987 Cup Winners' Cup and the 1992 UEFA Cup. After Ajax's UEFA Cup victory he was bought by Italian team Genoa, where he played four seasons before finishing his career. Van 't Schip featured in the Euro 1988, 1990 FIFA World Cup and Euro 1992 tournaments.
After retiring John van 't Schip became a youth coach for Ajax and manager for FC Twente. He also assisted Marco van Basten in coaching the Dutch national team for four years.
He was signed by the A-League's newest franchise Melbourne Heart FC on Oct 12th 2009, to be their inaugural coach for the 2010-11 season.
GW's Alex Milic spend some time with the Dutch master.

What are the clubs goals coming into its debut season?
To playing the kind of football I have in mind. The first goal is to achieve my way of playing and as a result of that of course, hope we are going to win a lot of games, It will take more time than normal, but that's okay. We have to get used to different players in different kinds of ways because of the way they have played in the past. We would like to participate well in the league and be one of the teams that are high in the rankings.

What kind of player will fulfil the marquee player status?
We are still looking at the options opened to us. It will be an experienced player to help our new team get further and also help not only on the pitch but off it as well. We are looking everywhere. We have had some talks with Australian players that were not willing to come as they are still under good contracts in Europe. We are still looking at Australian players, but also foreign players. The decision will be made in the next few weeks.

The club has already signed some well known names. Are you looking at more experienced players rather then young up and coming talent?
I think we have a good mix till now. We have some young players but of course, players with experience in the A-League like Simon Colosimo, Matt Thompson, Dean Heffernan; they are very experienced and they are in their best playing years. We also have a group of younger players which have a lot of talent. They will need more time to grow and they can grow with the players I have just mentioned.

Football in Australia?
We have to work very hard to get the game to a higher level and that's one of the things I am looking forward to.

Have you looked at any State League matches across the nation?
I have looked at a lot of State League matches in Melbourne because the league has recently started. I have seen a lot of games with the staff - Jesper Olsen, Ante Milicic, John Didulica - they are all doing a good job and we have seen quite a few games. We are also having some players on trial now so we will try to see what kind of players would be suited to the club. As you know, with injuries and other kinds of problems, as the season starts, then you can really have a good look at the players that are training with us, and then know if they have what we are looking for.

How important are supporters to a club, especially a new club?
Supporters are fundamental as they are the ones that really grow and stand behind the team. They cheer the players on and motivate them. Outside of the pitch there are a lot of people asking and talking about us, so we are going to do a lot for the community to try and really reach out to the supporters. Hopefully we will manage to get a good crowd.

What kind of philosophy will you bring to Melbourne Heart?
Trying to control the game by having a lot of ball possession, and by playing attractive football. These things have to come together through hard work, using your head, being football smart, playing with your heart. These will be the things I will try and get into the game.

You have played under many great coaches. Who left the biggest impression and what have you learnt from these world class coaches?
The biggest impression was definitely left by Johan Cruyff because he came in a period of my career when I was 18. At that moment he was still a player and he was really having good talks with me, took care of me and after that he became my coach. I learnt a lot from him. I still use a lot of the things he taught me. There are a lot of other good coaches that I trained with like Louis Van Gaal, Rinus Michels, Leo Beenhakker. Under every coach I learnt something and I will bring some of those things together in my own work.

Dutch football on the big stage?
A country like Holland is doing extremely well compared to a lot of other countries. If you see how many people are living in Holland and how small Holland is, the way we produce players every year. I think Holland is one of the leading football nations in the world and they have already achieved outstanding results with club teams in Europe and also with the national team. It's not easy winning a World Cup or winning a European Championship.

The Ajax football academy is one of the best in the world. What is the main focus of the academy?
Developing skills! Doing all sorts of things with the football. We try to do everything with the ball. Technical and tactical exercises are key. We support players with their individual actions on the pitch and that they can explore themselves. Those are the main reasons and we also make sure that they have a team game mindset. It's a team sport so the individual talent is used in the team game. We try to put all those aspects together. Those things are very important in the philosophy of Ajax.

Melbourne Heart's John van't Schip. PHOTO COURTESY MELBOURNE HEART

Compare the Dutch team of 1988 and the Dutch side of today? What did that team have that the recent teams didn't?
I don't like comparing. Every team is good in its own ways. I think the Dutch team now has very good talented side just like we had in 1988 and also in the 70s with Cruyff and co. In every team there are leaders and very good technical players; the players you need to keep teams together. It's a good team yet again but of course, there are other countries that have great players like Spain, Brazil, and Argentina. If you see what Leo Messi is doing it's amazing and they have much more possibilities in getting players as the countries are bigger and produce more footballers. Holland has a good chance but they will not be favourites.

What do you think of Australia's chances at the World Cup?
They have a competitive team and if everyone is united they can manage to achieve the same result as 2006. They can surely surprise everyone again. I don't know if they are stronger than 2006, which can be a problem especially up front. Mark Viduka won't be playing. He was very important for the team four years ago and the players of that team who are still members now are four years older, and they might be passed their best but they will have the same passion to do well.

How do you go about looking for possible players?
Me and my assistants Jesper Olsen, Ante Milicic and John Didulica are all looking for players that can fit into the philosophy that we have so that's what I am looking for.

What is the key to a good team?
Balance, personalities. To be a team you don't need big egos who think they are more important then the next player and of course it's not just the team. It's also about the people around the team – the coaching staff, medical staff – to make sure everything works out well. Every player has to give something. There will be technical players, players with a fighting spirit, who will be determined to do their best. Players who can score, assist, and a good goalie. Everyone will give its worth to the team and that's key to a successful side.

John van't Schip Fact File
Age: 46
Place of birth: Fort St. John, Canada
Height: 1.82 m (5 ft 11+1⁄2 in)

Senior career
Years Team Apps (Gls)
1981–1992 Ajax 273 (29)
1992–1996 Genoa 107 (11)
Total 380 (40)

National team
1986–1995 Netherlands 41 (2)

Teams managed
1997–2000 Ajax (Youth coach)
2000–2001 Ajax (Assistant coach)
2001–2002 FC Twente
2002–2004 Ajax B
2004–2008 Netherlands (Assistant coach)
2008–2009 Ajax (Assistant coach)
2009 Ajax (Interim coach)
2009– Melbourne Heart

Wikipedia

With Leroy Robinson

Beware of the Drog

By Leroy Robinson

This week just goes to show that some people are never satisfied, even in victory. They're top of the league, and the title is Chelsea's to lose, despite defeat at the weekend to a rejuvenated Tottenham Hotspur. Yet the manner of victory against lowly Bolton in midweek has led some quarters to criticise Carlo Ancelotti and their best player Didier Drogba.

The title is Chelsea's to lose...and they did a pretty good job of that against Spurs on the weekend.

The stats don't lie. Until Tuesday Nicolas Anelka had not scored since Drogba's return from the African Cup of Nations. Anelka has been playing mainly in a wide role during that time and when he does play alongside DD the Ivorian is the focal point of the attack. Anelka makes runs off him and doesn't get into the penalty area as much, hence his 9 goals and 6 assists to Drogba's 25 goals and 8 assists in the league.

For his part Anelka has taken the altruistic line, stating that goals are not important so long as the team wins. Any striker who says that should be given an instant lie detector test. Hands up who thought Anelka's productivity was a source of concern for Chelsea? For those who didn't raise their hands you probably feel like I do, that Drogba has always been the main man who scores in the big games, whereas, as against Bolton, Anelka enhanced his reputation as a striker with the propensity to spear the least resistant fish in the lake.

Yet it has been suggested by pundits on sports talk radio (I won't mention names) that Anelka should start and Drogba could come on as an 'impact substitute.' Have you ever heard such nonsense? I would expect this to be said of Salomon Kalou but not Drogba.

So why all this concern over Anelka?

Drogba is a character who polarises opinion. At the start of his career in the EPL he fell over far too often, using the play-acting tricks he'd learned in France. Those antics gradually faded but his petulance and habit of imploding at key moments earned him red cards in the UCL final against Man United and a ban for berating officials and swearing on live TV after the UCL semi against Barcelona last year. Add to that his stamp on Tiago Motta this season and you can understand why his assertion it was an accident fell on deaf ears.

Maybe some at Chelsea are tiring of the Didier Drogba show. But he's just been shortlisted for player of the year after his best ever EPL season. He has lost weight, looks fitter and this has shown in his extra productivity. The real problem Chelsea have is they really only have two big game players - Didier Drogba and Frank Lampard.

The team relies very heavily on both players and if they play badly so do Chelsea. The suggestion Anelka should play instead of Drogba is really a backlash against Chelsea's playing style against Bolton, where they resorted to the long ball once too often. This brings into question the age old dilemma for coaches. Is winning really everything or do you have to do it in style?

Once upon a time Chelsea played with style and pizzazz and had Italians called Zola, Di Matteo and Vialli. Heck, they even had the dreadlocked one Ruud Gullit (remember he wanted to play "sexy football"?). Those were the days Chelsea were southern softies, known more for their style than substance. They won the odd FA Cup and fans were fairly pleased because they played in a style pleasing on the eye and with skilled playmakers.

That changed with the arrival of Mourinho and though he created a winning mentality that survives to this day he was fired in part because the team played with a boring 4-5-1 formation and lacked excitement. You see it's almost better to win nothing and play progressive passing football than it is to win ugly. Almost. Fans these days are a fussy lot. They want to be entertained AND win. Fans are no longer satisfied with scraping 1-0 victories yet that is exactly what Carlo Ancelotti must do in his first season. He must make sure Chelsea win the title to gain respect and breathing space and then stamp his own style on the team in due course. To be fair there are but a few dissenting voices and if Chelsea do a league and cup double there won't be many people complaining about Carlo's first season in charge – or about Drogba.

Derby Blues for City

Under the 'we don't need this right now Carlos' heading has been the admission by Carlos Tevez that Manchester City players are unhappy with their training regime. Seems the blues have been made to train twice a day under Roberto Mancini, something Carlos thinks is OTT given the season is coming to an end.

There have been inevitable rants from fans about overpaid and pampered players but this columnist thinks that if a player has a problem with training he should air his grievance. The lethargic performance against Man United could be a portent of things to come.

Let's get something straight, Robert Mancini hates dissent. But whereas it was easy for Mancini to get rid of Robinho – a player considered a lazy Prima Donna – doing the same to Tevez will be neigh on impossible. Can you imagine the fans reaction if it happened. Losing one star player is careless, two....

Also Tevez is a hard worker known for speaking his mind and as their best player this season any contest between him and the new manager is a no-contest. Mancini has to either cut training sessions or stick to his guns while holding his own counsel. His biggest problem is that Tevez says he has the support of the other players.

I wasn't in love with Mancini's appointment especially as City want to become a global brand. To do this you must win AND win in style. Mancini's teams have never done this and although they are in a UCL spot the word is he will go if they fail to finish 4th and might even be on his way if they do. His biggest problem was demonstrated in the Manchester derby. With the score 0-0 and at home he reverted for the final minutes of the game to a 4-5-1. Defensive for most of the game the loss was no more than they deserved. His teams play not to lose, whereas Arsenal, Chelsea and United play to win.

Because of his negativity London Calling wouldn't be surprised if Mancini is introduced to the exit door during the off season. One thing is certain, if it's a battle between Carlos and Roberto age wins before beauty every time.

Spurs: Class on the Pitch, Crass off it

Some have ridiculed Tottenham Hotspur as a having a small-club mentality. SAF said the same of City earlier in the season and whilst I chuckled at it then I think it is totally uncalled for in the case of Spurs celebrating their victory against Arsenal. Having seen Barca beat Real last week in El Classico they celebrated with similar abandon against their great rivals. I'm sure in the Rome derby the victors will celebrate in the same manner too. The difference is those clubs are more or less equals. For Spurs beating Arsenal was like Espanol beating Barca (they didn't, just an analogy).

A first win in 11 years is well worth getting excited about as long as fans and players got over it and realised the game against Chelsea was just as important. That Spurs played better against Chelsea than against Arsenal tells me they are focused far more on their main prize than just on beating the better teams.

Though I still doubt they'll finish 4th, this week makes the race for 4th interesting and we won't have to hear commentators telling Spurs fans how long it's been since their last victory over Arsenal.

More troubling than the excessive celebration of 3 points was the chanting against Arsene Wenger. It didn't get much press and I won't (for legal reasons more than anything else) tell you what Spurs fans chanted when he stood on the touchline. It was obscene and uncalled for. Had they chanted that against Sol Campbell it would be all over the papers, but Monsieur Wenger is French and isn't black. We have a double standard where fans chant against Campbell for being a Judas and are hauled before the courts on false charges of inciting racial hatred and yet fans can spew out libellous comments against Wenger with impunity because of strength in numbers.

The few opinions I have heard on the subject called for a ban of one home game for Spurs. The problem is when does this type of chanting cease to be banter and become something to ban fans for? Do you ban West Ham fans for making gas chamber noises at Spurs fans? Do you ban fans for calling Peter Crouch a Freak? What about Wayne Rooney? He was once known as Shrek but since has become England's Pele and has earned nothing but respect. Fans have traditionally chanted rude and obscene things at each other and the authorities usually let it go.

Chants against players and managers are harder. I do believe that a manager has a right to do his job without comments such as those directed at Wenger. However, I draw the line at suggesting that anything abusive should result in a ban. Football is a game of crowd emotion and always will be. If part of that means saying some unpleasant things that may or may not be true – like about Frank Lampard's weight or John Terry's love life - then so be it. The comments directed towards Wenger suggest an altogether different level of vitriol and have to be addressed by the authorities. Unfortunately nothing will happen because they haven't taken up enough column inches in the national media and because Wenger is French.

IN OFF THE POST

Got something to say? Drop us a line and get it off your chest. Best letter wins double movie pass to Palace Cinemas.

mailbag@goalweekly.com

PALACE CINEMAS

Dear Goal! Weekly,
As a long time fan, I was pretty disappointed with the Bentleigh Greens performance against Green Gully the other weekend.

Not only did two of our players get deservedly sent off, but the whole team was guilty of a severe lack of discipline, spirit and showing any determination.

The club has gone out of its way financially to be competitive in the Premier League this year, so I'd suggest the players start showing some respect to the jumper and to the fans.

We've got a great set-up down at Kingston Heath, some good crowds have already turned out this year, and it's going to get better, but we need a team that is honest, hard working and competitive.

The display against Gully was utter rubbish. If I was a player, I would have felt guilty accepting match payment for that game. They should have all donated it to charity.

Better still, go out and buy yourselves a couple of books called "Success in Soccer" or "The Winning Formula". Might just to you all a world of good.
Tony Antoniou, Clayton

Dear Goal! Weekly,
Isn't it great to see Brisbane's talented young trio of Oar, Zullo and Sarota sign for Utrecht the other week. Now let's keep our fingers crossed and hope that this Holland-bound shipment turns out to be a bit better than the Heffernan/Beauchamp/Spiranovic one we sent to Germany a few years ago.
Michael Lavetti, Carlton

Dear Goal! Weekly,
Really enjoy the mag, keep up the good work. Can you please make your Wag of the Week picture bigger?? Love all the football stuff etc etc etc, but I think that's actualy the best bit of the mag. Hope you can oblige.
MJ, Port Melbourne

With Adam North

Should Pompey fans get a European Tour?

I've never been a big fan of the phrase 'a rollercoaster of emotions', yet it does perfectly describe how Portsmouth fans must have felt this season. So far this season they have been bottom of the Premier League, have gone into administration, have look like they could cease to exist as a football club, and amazingly they have reached the FA Cup final. And their full story still hasn't been told yet.

It was looking like it was going to be a tough season for the south coast club from the very start of the Premier League season, as they were in the bottom three for the first few months. They were already looking like strong candidates for relegation, with some poor management decisions and overall tepid displays on the field. And then came some even worse news; that Portsmouth were going into administration.

It was estimated at the time that Portsmouth owed close to seventy million pounds to various creditors, which they simply could not pay back. In basic terms, the club had all of its debts frozen, at which point an administrator came in to find a way to pay off any money they owe, through selling assets and cutting jobs. And, struggling to simply exist, Portsmouth were then docked ten points from their Premier League points total, as they were in breach of the league rules.

As much as many people fought against these decisions on Portsmouth's behalf, they were just and completely fair. As a club Pompey broke the rules, and were not existing within their means, which meant when it came time to pay up they were simply not able to. Ultimately they were cheating, and so paid the penalty. It could be said that other clubs in the Premier League, even several of the top clubs, operate under similar circumstances, which could be their downfall. But that is another story for another time.

For Portsmouth, a ten point deduction has led them to be relegated from England's top division, and so next season they will be playing Championship football. However, in what has been one of the true 'fairytale' stories, Pompey have somehow managed to overcome all their fiscal problems, at least on the pitch, as they have reached the FA Cup final. Although they will certainly lose against Chelsea, it is still a massive boost for all those associated with the club to appear in a football match that is shown all over the world.

No doubt, these Pompey fans think they should definitely get a crack at European football next season.

As I pointed out earlier, since Portsmouth have reached the FA Cup final they are now entitled to enter next seasons Europa League. But, as of right now at least, Pompey fans will not be getting their passports in order for next season, as Portsmouth cannot enter the European competition. The reason for this is that the club had until early March to submit an application for a UEFA license, however because they are in administration they could not forward their finances, meaning they would not be able to get a license from Europe's governing body.

Portsmouth do still have a glimmer of opportunity, as they are appealing the decision, and also if they get out of administration in time they may still be able to get a license to play in Europe next season. But for me, the question has to be asked whether Portsmouth should be allowed to play in the Europa League or not?

First off, I'd like to point out that I have been a big fan of the south coast club this season. Despite all of their off-field problems they have actually played some good football, including a dominating home victory over Liverpool. And their semi-final against Spurs was a great showcase of their determination and will to succeed. Also their manager Avram Grant has proved that he is a good boss, and he has conducted himself, as he did during a difficult year at Chelsea, with a dignity and grace that some other managers should learn from.

And there are indeed some valid arguments for Pompey being allowed to play in Europe next season. They are in dire need of financial assistance, and a run in Europe, no mater how brief, could be the difference between them staying afloat or sinking into non-existence. Also, non-qualification would be unfair on the Portsmouth fans, who have been brilliant in support of their team this season. If any fans deserve some sunlight after months of shade it is the Pompey faithful.

Yet there are also some legitimate arguments against Portsmouth being allowed into Europe. They simply did not apply for a license, and as the saying goes, 'the rules are the rules', and no license means no entry into Europe. And also just because we know it would be a great monetary help to the club to have a run in Europe does not mean that the FA or UEFA should bend the rules to let them in.

However, my reason for not letting Portsmouth into the Europa League is because quite simply I think they should not have been allowed to get to an FA Cup Final. Pompey were deducted points from the league because they were found to be in breach of certain rules. This means that they were cheating. So therefore I believe that any punishment given upon them should affect both their league status and also their cup status as well. As soon as they went into administration they should have been omitted from the FA Cup competition, with the team they were due to play getting a bye. I agree that this would be a harsh punishment, especially on the fans as the clubs problems are in no way their fault, however just because we feel sorry for the fans does not mean that harsh punishments are not just.

I am someone who has always enjoyed a good 'underdog' story, and I would be lying if I said I wasn't supporting Portsmouth against Tottenham in the FA Cup Semi-Final. Yet, as I have said, they were found guilty of cheating, plain and simple, and surely the penalty for such bad management should not only be a points deduction in the league, but also an omission from the country's premier cup competition. For me, there is no argument as to whether they should be allowed into Europe, as they should not have still been in the competition to qualify for it in the first place. As much as I admire Pompey fans, their European Tour should be like all planes around Britain right now, and that is cancelled.

Taking the plunge to fast track recovery

PENINSULA Hot Springs regularly sees sports teams visiting as part of their fitness and recovery programs - particularly Mondays and Tuesdays when the natural thermal mineral waters can do wonders for weekend strains and pains.

Team coaches and physios have players repeatedly alternate between the hot spring pools and the various cold plunge pools.

The theory of this hot/cold water treatment is that it decreases inflammation of soft tissue and stimulates the nervous system. Coaches can fast track players' neural recovery – the central nervous system benefits. Players also increase blood flow and flush waste products: lymphatic drainage is especially important in the days following a big game.

The natural bush/dune setting also provides a fantastic backdrop for teams to relax and recover. According to the Australian Institute of Sport, a cold plunge can help spike a general feeling of well-being and mental awareness, improve circulation and boost the immune system – as well as aid athletic recovery.

The AIS recommends the following protocols for Hot/Cold Contrast Water Immersion.

- The spa/cold plunge session should ideally be used at the end of a training day - do not use if you have damaged muscles, a very recent injury or bruising...
- Shower before use;
- Take two minutes in a spa;
- Take a one minute plunge

(Try to relax as much as possible!);

- Repeat 4 to 5 times;
- Always finish with a cold plunge;
- Re-hydrate before, during and after session.

The AIS recommends a cold water only session should ideally be used following a heavy weights session, between training sessions or during the acute phases of muscle injury, soreness or bruising. Try to build up a total of five minutes in the plunge pool ...

- Shower before use;
- 1 minute plunge

(try to relax as much a possible!);

- 2 minutes out of water (air temperature);
- Repeat 4-5 times.

The AIS recommends that a hot spa only session can be used at the end of a day or on a rest day as a relaxation technique. Do not use if you have damaged muscles, a recent injury or bruising ...

- Shower before use;
- Do not use spa for extended periods of time

(no greater than 10-15 minutes);

- Always re-hydrate while using the spa;
- Stretching and jet massage can be utilised in the spa environment.

Peninsula Hot Springs is at Springs Lane, Rye. Phone (03) 5950 8777 or visit www.peninsula-hotsprings.com

WAG OF THE WEEK

Elena Santarelli Age: 26
InSignificant Other: Udinese striker, Bernardo Corradi.

COUCH POTATO DEPT.

* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

goalweekly.com

SETANTA SPORTS

Monday 19th April
7am Bundesliga Borussia Dortmund vs Hoffenheim
8:45am Bundesliga Frankfurt vs Hertha Berlin
10:30am Serie A Sampdoria vs Milan
2pm Portuguese Liga Academica vs Benfica
4pm Russian Premier League Saturn vs Spartak Moscow

Thursday 22nd April
2am Coppa Italia Semi Final Udinese vs Roma LIVE
10:45am Copa Libertadores Sao Paulo vs Once Caldas LIVE

Saturday 24th April
4:30am Bundesliga Bochum vs Stuttgart LIVE
9pm SPL St Johnstone vs Aberdeen LIVE
11:30pm J-League Albirex Nigata vs Sanfrecce Hiroshima

Sunday 25th April
2:30am Bundesliga Werder Bremen vs FC Koln LIVE
4:40am Serie A Palermo vs Milan LIVE
6:45am Ligue 1 Lyon vs Monaco
8:30am Ligue 1 PSG vs Rennes
3pm Russian Premier League Sibir vs CSKA Moscow
4:45pm Portuguese Liga Benfica vs Olhanense
9:10pm SPL Dundee Utd vs Celtic LIVE
11:30pm SPL Hibernian vs Rangers LIVE

Monday 26th April
1:30am Bundesliga Freiburg vs St Etienne LIVE
5am Ligue 1 Marseille vs St Etienne LIVE
7:30am Russian Premier League Spartak Moscow vs Spartak Nalchik
9:15am Bundesliga Hoffenheim vs Hamburg
11am Serie A Napoli vs Cagliari
4pm Ligue 1 Tolouse vs Auxerre

31 tv now!

The Futbol Town Show
Every Monday 7pm

Extra Time Magazine Show
Every Wednesday 8pm

The Green Gully Football Show
Every Saturday 10.30am

SBS

SBS One
Mon 19th April
5:30 pm Futbol Mundial

Wed 21st April
4:30 am UEFA Champions League: Semi Final 1st Leg.
Inter Milan v Barcelona Live to all centres

Thurs 2nd April
4:30 am UEFA Champions League: Semi Final 1st Leg.
Bayern Munich v Lyon Live to all centres.
10:00 pmUEFA Champions League Hour

Fri 23rd April
4:45 am LIVE UEFA Europa League Semi Final 1st Leg
Atletico Madrid v Liverpool
7:15 am Delayed UEFA Europa League Semi Final 1st Leg
Hamburg v Fulham

Sun 25th April
2:30 pm 2010 FIFA World Cup Magazine
3:00 pm UEFA Europa League Highlights
3:30 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine Program
4:00 pm Les Murray's Football Feature: UEFA Champions League: Semi Final 1st Leg.
5:00 pm The World Game

SBS Two
Wed 21st April
8:35 pm UEFA Champions League: Semi Final 1st Leg.
Replay of this morning's match.

Thurs 22nd
8:30 pm UEFA Champions League: Semi Final 1st leg.
Replay of this morning's match

Fri 23rd April
7:30 pm UEFA Champions League Hour - All the highlights from the UEFA Champions League.
8:30 pm UEFA Europa League: Semi Final 1st Leg. Replay of Atletico Madrid v Liverpool

FOX SPORTS

WEEK 36
Sat Apr 17 Man City v Man United 9.40 pm (Fox 3)
Sat Apr 17 Blackburn v Everton 11.55 pm (Fox 3)
Sat Apr 17 Birmingham v Hull 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Apr 17 Fulham v Wolves 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Apr 17 Stoke v Bolton 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sat Apr 17 Sunderland v Burnley 11.55 pm Viewers Choice
Sun Apr 18 Tottenham v Chelsea 2.25 am (Fox 3)
Sun Apr 18 Wigan v Arsenal 10.25 pm (Fox 3)
Mon Apr 19 Portsmouth v Aston Villa 12.55 am (Fox 3)

one HD

Monday 19th April
10:30 pm World Football News
11:30 pm Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

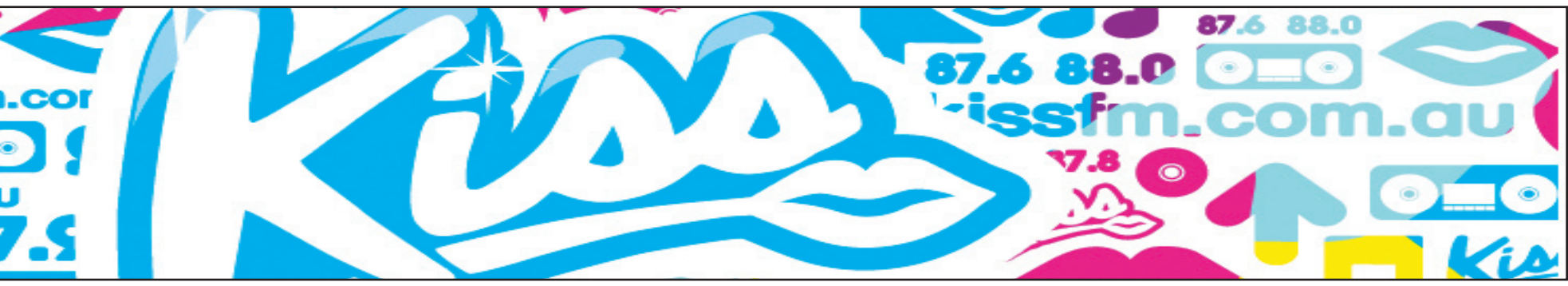
Tuesday 20th April
07:00 am Serie A Matchday 34 - Teams TBA

Wednesday 21st April
12:45 am The Serie A Highlights Show
07:00 am Bundesliga (Rpt) Matchday 31 - Teams TBA
04:15 pm Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt)

Thursday 22nd April
07:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt) Matchday 31
08:15 am The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt) Matchday 34

Friday 23rd April 2010
05:00 am Serie A (Rpt) Matchday 34 - Teams TBA

Sunday 25th April 2010
10:00 am Bundesliga Matchday 32
Borussia Monchengladbach V Bayern Munich



Soccer gives technology the boot

By Roy Hay

It is not always that I find myself in agreement with the president of the governing body of world football (FIFA), Sepp Blatter, but last month he and his organisation decided not to use technology to second-guess the decisions by referees on the field of play. This was a victory for human beings and though it contains the risk, indeed the certainty of error, it is much preferable to using video replays to shift the locus of decision-making to another, not necessarily better, place.

The international board which determines the laws of football has been examining various technical methods of trying to determine whether the ball has crossed the goal line. Those with long memories will recall that in 1966 there was a controversy when a shot by England's Geoff Hurst in extra-time in the World Cup final hit the cross-bar and bounced down on or over the goal-line. That is still not a settled issue 44 years later. Recent advances in technology include using a sensor inside the ball and cameras mounted on the goal-line, but the board has concluded that the disadvantages of using these methods outweigh any gains.

They argue that once one area of the game has been subjected to outside referral then there will inevitably be calls to extend that to other contentious parts of the game—offside, foul tackles and simulation or diving to gain an advantage. So the game, which depends on continuous flow and constant action, would become a much more stop-start affair. Games where there are natural intervals, like American football, lend themselves to gaps for video reconsideration, but the other codes much prefer more continuous action.

Blatter also makes the point that Association football is a universal game and must be played in same way no matter where you are in the world with the same rules as those at the elite, televised level. Given that 99.95 per cent of games are not televised and hence have no option of video replay, why should this particular tail wag the dog? I know that some will say that huge sums rest on the outcomes of key matches in World Cups and domestic league championships in the leading countries. If Thierry Henry helps France into the World Cup finals with an illicit hand-ball, is this fair play? But as Blatter reasonably points out, after video adjudication ten experts can have ten opinions and if we wait for them to reach consensus we will wait forever.

FIFA is also very keen to improve the standard and professionalism of referees, so taking responsibility away from them is not the way to attract and retain the best officials. My own suggestion is that when technology is available to provide the referee with a hand-held device which enables that person to review a decision instantly, then we might revisit this contentious area. That would ensure that the decision maker was not being second-guessed by outsiders and would leave responsibility where it should lie. Even then we would still have the problem that Blatter alluded to. Most games are not televised or video recorded, so where is the review data to come from?

Finally, and again Blatter makes the point, fans just love the contentious aspects of the game. It is a game of strong and varied opinions. Where would we be if we did not have issues to occupy us for the rest of the week? Judging by the space devoted to sport in our domestic and international media, there might be a big gap to be filled. It was a feminist radical writer who pointed out that the only time the guns fell silent in the Middle East was when football matches were being played. She did not deal with the debates that followed the games when a contentious offside decision was under scrutiny, but I suspect she could have extended her analysis to that period too.

Geoff Hurst's goal in the 1966 World Cup final is still disputed to this day....especially by the Germans.

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The 2010 tournament is sure to be special with a FIFA World Cup Live Site at the University of Canberra Kanga Cup Hub so you can see all the action on the big screen and special guest Peter Walton, English Premier League Referee.

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STATE NORTH WEST 2

Seniors

Altona City 1 (F Memishi) Werribee City 1 (JC Spiteri), Altona East Phoenix 0 Port Melbourne 1, Banyule City 2 Whittlesea Ranges 4 (S Lamanda M Packovski SR Carr), Geelong Rangers 0 Williamstown 1, Brunswick City 3 (B Gorcevski S Patikkis M Yilmaz) Moreland City 2 (O Simsek 2), Sydenham Park 1 Ballarat Red Devils 1

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Port Melbourne	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Whittlesea Ranges	2	2	0	0	6	3	6
Brunswick City	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Werribee City	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Williamstown	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Moreland City	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Altona City	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Ballarat Red Devils	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Sydenham Park	2	0	1	1	2	6	1
Geelong Rangers	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Altona East Phoenix	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Banyule City	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

Reserves

Altona City 2 Werribee City 1, Altona East Phoenix 0 Port Melbourne 3, Banyule City 0 Whittlesea Ranges 1, Geelong Rangers 1 Williamstown 1, Sydenham Park 2 Ballarat Red Devils 4

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Port Melbourne	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Whittlesea Ranges	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Altona City	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Ballarat Red Devils	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Moreland City	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Altona East Phoenix	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Brunswick City	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Banyule City	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Williamstown	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Geelong Rangers	2	0	1	1	1	5	1
Sydenham Park	2	0	0	2	3	7	0
Werribee City	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

STATE SOUTH EAST 2

Seniors

Doncaster Rovers 1 (JO Adedsun) Frankston Pines 0, Casey Comets 3 Knox City 1, Berwick City Southern Suburbs , Dandenong City 3 (A Milicic) Eastern Lions 3 (O Harel L Henderson), Heatherton Utd 2 (M Pedic A Memedovski) Southern Stars 2 (C Platt 2), Morwell Pegasus 5 (F Albanese CG Clarke) Diamond Valley Utd 3 (A Giuliano L Minopoulos 2)

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Morwell Pegasus	2	2	0	0	8	4	6
Southern Stars	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Casey Comets	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Doncaster Rovers	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Diamond Valley Utd	2	1	0	1	6	7	3
Dandenong City	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Heatherton Utd	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Berwick City	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Frankston Pines	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Eastern Lions	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
Knox City	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Southern Suburbs	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Reserves

Doncaster Rovers 1 Frankston Pines 4, Casey Comets 1 Knox City 3, Berwick City Southern Suburbs , Dandenong City 3 Eastern Lions 2, Heatherton Utd 2 Southern Stars 1, Morwell Pegasus 1 Diamond Valley Utd 5

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Diamond Valley Utd	2	2	0	0	8	2	6
Heatherton Utd	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Frankston Pines	2	1	0	1	5	3	3
Berwick City	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Southern Stars	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Eastern Lions	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Knox City	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Dandenong City	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Casey Comets	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Southern Suburbs	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Morwell Pegasus	2	0	0	2	3	8	0
Doncaster Rovers	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Seniors

Cairnlea 1 Geelong 2 (C Psimaris 2), Hume Utd 2 (H Al - Husaini) Keilor Park 1 (S Mussel), Lalor 2 (D Christou) Yarraville Glory 2 (H Timotheou J Ikanovic), Melbourne University 4 (A Griffith N Schaer M Di Grazia) Maribyrnong Greens 0, Essendon Utd 2 (A Imvriotis 2) La Trobe University 2 (D Guadagno D Greening)

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Yarraville Glory	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
La Trobe University	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Geelong	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Melbourne University	2	1	0	1	4	1	3
Sunbury Utd	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Hume Utd	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Keilor Park	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Lalor	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Westgate	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Essendon Utd	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Cairnlea	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Maribyrnong Greens	2	0	1	1	0	4	-2

Reserves

Cairnlea 2 Geelong 2, Hume Utd 4 Keilor Park 6 (M Mohamed 2 J Pilcher M Xerri 3), Lalor 3 Yarraville Glory 1, Melbourne University 2 Maribyrnong Greens 3, Essendon Utd 1 La Trobe University 1

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	2	2	0	0	11	5	6
La Trobe University	2	1	1	0	7	5	4
Lalor	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Maribyrnong Greens	2	2	0	0	4	2	3
Sunbury Utd	1	1	0	0	4	3	3
Geelong	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Essendon Utd	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Cairnlea	2	0	1	1	5	6	1
Yarraville Glory	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Westgate	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Hume Utd	2	0	0	2	8	12	0
Melbourne University	2	0	0	2	3	8	0

STATE SOUTH EAST 3

Seniors

Peninsula Strikers 1 South Springvale 4 (I Diniotis GW Pearce A Savva K Athiu), Noble Park Utd 3 (C Durand N Salamandic B Bajic) Brandon Park 1 (A Mashoian), Springvale City 1 (E Trakosevic) Waverley Wanderers 2 (P Pantelidis S Aydogan), Mornington 2 Fitzroy City 0, North Caulfield 1 Croydon City Arrows 4

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Springvale	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Waverley Wanderers	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Kingston City	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
North Caulfield	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Noble Park Utd	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Mornington	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Fitzroy City	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Peninsula Strikers	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Brandon Park	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Croydon City Arrows	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Nunawading City	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Springvale City	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Reserves

Peninsula Strikers 0 South Springvale 0, Noble Park Utd 6 Brandon Park 3, Springvale City 4 Waverley Wanderers 1, Mornington 1 Fitzroy City 3, North Caulfield 2 Croydon City Arrows 2

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Noble Park Utd	2	2	0	0	8	4	6
Peninsula Strikers	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Kingston City	1	1	0	0	8	0	3
Nunawading City	1	1	0	0	4	1	3
Fitzroy City	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Mornington	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Brandon Park	2	1	0	1	5	7	3
Springvale City	2	1	0	1	4	9	3
South Springvale	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
North Caulfield	1	0	0	1	1	4	0
Croydon City Arrows	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Waverley Wanderers	2	0	0	2	2	6	0

PROVI 1 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Westvale 0 Avondale Heights 2, Corio 2 Northern Falcons 0, Elwood City 1 North Sunshine Eagles 4, Laverton Park 4 South Yarra 0, Melbourne City 1 Whittlesea Utd 4 (J Barrientos 2 T Altanham A Kilic), FC Strathmore 4 (A Kranjinovic T Grgic D Peric 2) North City Lions 1

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Laverton Park	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Whittlesea Utd	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Corio	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Avondale Heights	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
FC Strathmore	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
North Sunshine Eagles	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Westvale	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Northern Falcons	2	1	0	1	1	2	0
Melbourne City	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Elwood City	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
North City Lions	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
South Yarra	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

Reserves

Westvale 0 Avondale Heights 3, Corio 4 Northern Falcons 0, Elwood City 2 North Sunshine Eagles 5, Laverton Park 1 South Yarra 2, Melbourne City 0 Whittlesea Utd 5, FC Strathmore 1 North City Lions 4

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Whittlesea Utd	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Avondale Heights	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Corio	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
North Sunshine Eagles	2	1	1	0	6	3	4
North City Lions	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
South Yarra	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Westvale	2	1	0	1	4	6	3
FC Strathmore	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Melbourne City	2	1	0	1	4	8	3
Laverton Park	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Elwood City	2	0	0	2	5	9	0
Northern Falcons	2	0	0	2	3	8	-3

PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Boroondara Eagles 2 Monash University 3 (LP Johnson 2), Dandenong Sparrows 2 (T Ithier T Boi) Warragul Utd 2 (M Davies D Open), Doveton 0 Mooroolbark 2 (Y Christoforou B Adams), Old Camberwell Grammar 3 Beaumaris 0, Old Melburnians 3 (J Howe 2 E Meade) Monbulk 3 (S Bras 2 M Rivera), Sandringham City 1 Old Scotch 3 (S Whately J Beamish)

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Camberwell Grammar	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Mooroolbark	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Monbulk	2	1	1	0	5	4	4
Old Scotch	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Monash University	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Beaumaris	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Doveton	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Old Melburnians	2	0	2	0	5	5	2
Warragul Utd	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Sandringham City	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Dandenong Sparrows	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Boroondara Eagles	2	0	0	2	3	5	0

Reserves

Boroondara Eagles 1 Monash University 6, Dandenong Sparrows 2 Warragul Utd 2, Doveton 1 Mooroolbark 0, Old Camberwell Grammar 3 Beaumaris 3, Old Melburnians 2 Monbulk 1, Sandringham City 1 Old Scotch 2

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Monash University	2	2	0	0	9	2	6
Old Melburnians	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Old Camberwell Grammar	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Dandenong Sparrows	2	1	1	0	6	5	4
Monbulk	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Mooroolbark	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Old Scotch	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Doveton	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Beaumaris	2	0	1	1	6	7	1
Warragul Utd	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Sandringham City	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Boroondara Eagles	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

PROVI 2 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Collingwood City 2 Melton 2, Hoppers Crossing 1 Epping City 3, Plenty Valley Lions 2 (D Stojanovski J Soklevski) Moreland Utd 1, West Preston 2 (WJ Sismanis 2) Bell Park 1 (N Hopper), Western Eagles 4 (L Galon W Galon K Hubiak) Lalor Utd 0

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Western Eagles	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Plenty Valley Lions	2	2	0	0	6	3	6
Epping City	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
West Preston	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Hoppers Crossing	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Collingwood City	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Melton	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Moreland Utd	2	1	0	1	2	2	0
Melbourne Tornado	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Surf Coast	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Bell Park	2	0	0	2	3	5	0
Lalor Utd	2	0	0	2	2	8	0

Reserves

Collingwood City 4 Melton 5, Hoppers Crossing 2 Epping City 2, Melbourne Tornado 1 Surf Coast 2, Plenty Valley Lions 1 Moreland Utd 1, West Preston 2 Bell Park 0, Western Eagles 0 Lalor Utd 1

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
West Preston	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Epping City	2	1	1	0	10	4	4
Hoppers Crossing	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Plenty Valley Lions	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Collingwood City	2	1	0	1	7	7	3
Lalor Utd	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Melton	2	1	0	1	5	6	3
Surf Coast	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Western Eagles	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Bell Park	2	0	1	1	0	2	1
Melbourne Tornado	2	0	0	2	3	10	0
Moreland Utd	2	0	1	1	3	4	-2

PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Uni. of Melbourne 1 (M Cosmano) Riversdale 3, Ashburton 5 Whitehorse Utd 0, Berwick Kings 1 (B Stojilovic) Endeavour Utd 0, Caulfield Cobras 0 Old Carey 2 (AF Amin PJ Henson), Lyndale Utd 0 Bayside Argonauts 2, Old Brighton Grammarians 0 Skye Utd 2 (M Cordoma 2)

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Riversdale	2	2	0	0	7	4	6
Ashburton	2	1	1	0	6	1	4
Bayside Argonauts	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Skye Utd	2	1	0	1	5	4	3
Old Carey	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Old Brighton Grammarians	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Berwick Kings	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Whitehorse Utd	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
Uni. of Melbourne	2	1	0	1	3	4	3
Endeavour Utd	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Caulfield Cobras	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Lyndale Utd	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

Reserves

Uni. of Melbourne 1 Riversdale 2, Ashburton 3 Whitehorse Utd 1, Berwick Kings 2 Endeavour Utd 3, Caulfield Utd 2 Old Carey 1, Lyndale Utd 6 Bayside Argonauts 0, Old Brighton Grammarians 2 Skye Utd 2

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Lyndale Utd	2	2	0	0	10	1	6
Caulfield Utd	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Ashburton	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Riversdale	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Berwick Kings	2	1	0	1	6	4	3
Endeavour Utd	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Old Carey	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Old Brighton Grammarians	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Skye Utd	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Uni. of Melbourne	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
Whitehorse Utd	2	0	0	2	2	7	0
Bayside Argonauts	2	0	0	2	0	10	0

PROVI 3 NORTH WEST

Seniors

Brimbank Stallions 3 (RD Origlia SF Lopez R Cesaire) Keilor Wolves 3 (D Panev F Minoski), Darebin Utd 4 (J Nikolarakos C Tsalkos M Peros) Balmoral 1 (N Kalkan), Meadow Park Eagles 0 Upfield 1 (HE Kakos), Watsonia Heights 1 Youth Utd 0, Brunswick Zebras 0 Mill Park 1, Northern Roosters 4 Bundoora Utd 3

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Darebin Utd	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Upfield	2	2	0	0	7	2	6
Watsonia Heights	2	2	0	0	5	0	6
Northern Roosters	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Youth Utd	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Mill Park	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Bundoora Utd	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Meadow Park Eagles	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Brunswick Zebras	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Balmoral	2	0	1	1	2	5	1
Brimbank Stallions	2	0	1	1	5	9	1
Keilor Wolves	2	0	1	1	3	7	1

Reserves

Brimbank Stallions 3 Keilor Wolves 1, Darebin Utd 1 Balmoral 2, Meadow Park Eagles 0 Upfield 9, Watsonia Heights 3 Youth Utd 0, Brunswick Zebras 6 Mill Park 0, Northern Roosters 2 Bundoora Utd 2

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Watsonia Heights	2	2	0	0	9	1	6
Balmoral	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
Upfield	2	1	1	0	13	4	4
Brunswick Zebras	2	1	1	0	7	1	4
Brimbank Stallions	2	1	1	0	7	5	4
Darebin Utd	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Youth Utd	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Bundoora Utd	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Northern Roosters	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Keilor Wolves	2	0	0	2	2	9	0
Mill Park	2	0	0	2	1	9	0
Meadow Park Eagles	2	0	0	2	0	10	0

PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST

Seniors

Brimbank Stallions 3 (RD Origlia SF Lopez R Cesaire) Keilor Wolves 3 (D Panev F Minoski), Darebin Utd 4 (J Nikolarakos C Tsalkos M Peros) Balmoral 1 (N Kalkan), Meadow Park Eagles 0 Upfield 1 (HE Kakos), Watsonia Heights 1 Youth Utd 0, Brunswick Zebras 0 Mill Park 1, Northern Roosters 4 Bundoora Utd 3

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Seaford Utd	2	2	0	0	8	1	6
Essendon Royals	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Keysborough	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
White Star Dandenong	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Noble Park	2	1	0	1	4	5	3
East Bentleigh	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Brighton	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Rowville Eagles	2	1	0	1	3	4	0
Eltham Redbacks	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
Glen Waverley	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Old Trinity Grammarians	2	0	0	2	1	5	0
Manningham	2	0	0	2	3	8	0

Reserves

Brimbank Stallions 3 Keilor Wolves 1, Darebin Utd 1 Balmoral 2, Meadow Park Eagles 0 Upfield 9, Watsonia Heights 3 Youth Utd 0, Brunswick Zebras 6 Mill Park 0, Northern Roosters 2 Bundoora Utd 2

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Old Trinity Grammarians	2	2	0	0	12	1	6
Seaford Utd	2	2	0	0	9	2	6
Brighton	2	2	0	0	6	3	6
Noble Park	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Glen Waverley	2	1	0	1	6	2	3
White Star Dandenong	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Keysborough	2	0	1	1	4	6	1
Rowville Eagles	2	1	0	1	4	6	0
Eltham Redbacks	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Manningham	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
East Bentleigh	2	0	0	2	1	9	0
Essendon Royals	2	0	0	2	1	13	0

Victorian State & Provisional League Scoreboard brought to you by

LAIKI BANK

ROUND 3 FIXTURES

All matches to be played on Saturday 24th April with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

State NW 2
Whittlesea Ranges v Moreland City
Epping Soccer Stadium Fri 23 Apr KO 8:30PM
Altona City v Altona East Phoenix
HC Kim Reserve
Ballarat Red Devils v Port Melbourne
Trekardo Park
Brunswick City v Sydenham Park
Dunstan Reserve
Werribee City v Geelong Rangers
Galvin Park Reserve
Williamstown v Banyule City
JT Gray Reserve

State SE 2
Eastern Lions v Southern Stars
Gardiners Creek Reserve
Dandenong City v Morwell Pegasus
Frank Holohan Soccer Reserve
Heatherton Utd v Berwick City
Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre
Knox City v Doncaster Rovers
Egan Lee Reserve
Southern Suburbs v Casey Comets
Keeley Park
Frankston Pines v Diamond Valley Utd
Monterey Reserve Sat 24 Apr KO 7:00PM

State NW 3
Geelong v Sunbury Utd
Stead Park Reserve
Keilor Park v Essendon Utd
Keilor Park Reserve
La Trobe University v Lalor
Latrobe Uni Lower Playing Field
Maribyrnong Greens v Hume Utd
Skinner Reserve
Melbourne University Rangers SC v Westgate
Princes Park (Parkville)
Yarraville Glory v Cairnlea
McIvor Reserve

State SE 3
Croydon City Arrows v Kingston City
Dorset Recreational Centre Fri 23 Apr KO 8:30PM
Fitzroy City v Peninsula Strikers
Fairfield Park
Nunawading City v Waverley Wanderers
Mahoneys Road Reserve
Mornington v Noble Park Utd
Dallas Brooks Park
Springvale City v Brandon Park
Ross Reserve
South Springvale v North Caulfield
Warner Reserve Sun 25 Apr KO 3:00PM

Provi NW 1
Melbourne City v North City Lions
Edwards Reserve
North Sunshine Eagles v Avondale Heights
Larissa Reserve
Northern Falcons v Elwood City
Hayes Park
South Yarra v FC Strathmore
Fawkner Park (North Pavillion)
Westvale v Laverton Park SC
McKechnie Reserve
Whittlesea Utd v Corio
Thomas Street Recreational Park

Provi SE 1
Warragul Utd v Old Camberwell Grammar
Baxter Park (Warragul)
Beaumaris v Sandringham City
Beaumaris Reserve
Boroondara Eagles v Doveton
Macleay Park
Monash University v Old Melburnians
Monash University Sports Oval
Monbulk v Dandenong Sparrows
Monbulk Recreation Reserve
Old Scotch v Mooroolbark
H.A. Smith Reserve

Provi NW 2
Bell Park v Melbourne Tornado
Bell Park Sports Club
Collingwood City v Hoppers Crossing
Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Lalor Utd v West Preston
HR Uren Reserve
Melton v Plenty Valley Lions
MacPhersons Park
Moreland Utd v Western Eagles
Moomba Park Reserve
Surf Coast v Epping City
Quay Reserve

Provi SE 2
Skye Utd v Caulfield Cobras
Skye Recreational Reserve
Endeavour Utd v Uni. Of Melbourne Blues SC
Reema Reserve
Whitehorse Utd v Berwick Kings
Terrara Park
Old Carey v Lyndale Utd
Carey Sports Complex
Old Brighton Grammarians v Riversdale
Dendy Park
Bayside Argonauts v Ashburton
Shipston Reserve

Provi NW 3
Mill Park v Northern Roosters
Findon Reserve
Youth Utd v Brimbank Stallions
Seth Raistrick Reserve
Brunswick Zebras v Darebin Utd
Sumner Park
Bundoora Utd v Watsonia Heights
Hills Recreational Reserve
Keilor Wolves v Meadow Park Eagles
Green Gully Reserve
Upfield v Balmoral
Gibb Reserve

Provi SE 3
Essendon Royals v Glen Waverley FC
Ormond Park
Noble Park v Brighton
Norman Luth Reserve
Old Trinity Grammarians v Manningham
Trinity Sports Ground
Rowville Eagles v East Bentleigh
Park Ridge Reserve
Seaford Utd v Eltham Redbacks
North Seaford Reserve
White Star Dandenong v Keysborough
Greaves Reserve

Bulleen and Pascoe Vale make the early charge

By Aritro Abedin

Malvern City 's efforts to open their tally for the season rapidly descended into farce in Saturday's hit-out against Bulleen at Kingston Heath on Saturday as the Lions demolished the home side with a 5-0 scoreline that could very well have been even more emphatic.

Matthew Dimech opened the scoring with a vicious dipping volley from 25 yards, giving the keeper no chance as he stamped the Lions authority on the game.

The Bulleen ace was on the score sheet again as he slid home the second before the floodgates opened for the Lions. Former Preston stalwart Anthony Magnacca's stunning free-kick added a third before Michael Santoro's immaculate finish made it 4-0, and a header late in the game rounded off a five nill thumping for the Lions who look a real chance for promotion this season.

Assistant Coach Nick Crivelli was understandably delighted with the result, saying 'getting the three points tonight was the objective but we weren't expecting to win like that. Santoro was fantastic and Patrick Ndongo played a brilliant game with a sore knee. We've got the Warriors next week and it's going to be a hard game because they're a very good team. We've got to make sure we play well on the night.'

What looked like a hard-earned home win for North Geelong ended in disaster as a goalkeeping howler cost the Warriors the three points at Elcho Park on Saturday night. Mijo Trupkovic put the home side ahead in the mid-point of the match, and the Warriors defended resolutely right until the 85th minute when a mis-hit shot rolled innocuously towards the goal-keeper, who then stunned the home-fans and all his team-mates by letting it pass through his legs and into the net.

A disappointed Warriors manager Vinko Buljubasic tried to be philosophical about the result saying 'we're pleased with a point, it was only a bizarre goal that cost us the win today. We should have had a penalty in the 80th minute when Matthew Demo was one-on-one with the keeper and he got tugged from behind, but the referee waved play-on so it wasn't to be. I thought our veterans such as Trukovic and Cervinski played very well and we pressured them well all day.'

In the highly anticipated clash between Preston Lions and St Albans, it was the away side who took the three points. After going into the break at one a piece, St Albans dominated the second half and secured the three points through Metin Alebeyi, Joe Loncaric and George Abitzidis who all chipped in with a goal a piece. Andrew Branov scored the only goal for Preston.

Langwarrin has opened its account for the first time this season with the team from Lawton Park easily dismissing an unimpressive Fawkner side. Langy scored 3 first half goals and it was enough to take all three points.

Clifton Hill has enjoyed their first win of the season after a comprehensive 3-0 victory over the Whittlesea Zebras.

Action aplenty!! ...from left to right:- Chris Johnson (Malvern), John Crivelli (Bulleen), Nick Stamatiou (on knees) & Anthony Magnacca (on Stamatiou). PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

SL1 action as the St Albans Saints attack the Preston Lions goal. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

Malvern City keeper Kamil Brozstek and defender Nick Katsamboukis are beaten but Michael Santoro was to miss with his shot at goal. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Left: Saints celebrate scoring against Preston
PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

SL1 RESULTS

North Geelong Warriors 1 (M Trupkovic)
Springvale White Eagles 1

Malvern City 0
FC Bulleen Lions 5 (S Mala)

Fawkner Blues 0
Langwarrin 3

Preston Lions 1 (AJ Branov)
St Albans Saints 3 (M Alibeyi J Loncaric G Abatzidis)

Western Suburbs 0
Pascoe Vale 1

Under 21s:
North Geelong Warriors 2 Springvale White Eagles 1, Malvern City 1 FC Bulleen Lions 4, Western Suburbs 0 Pascoe Vale 6, Whittlesea Zebras 0 FC Clifton Hill 0, Fawkner Blues 0 Langwarrin 1, Preston Lions 2 St Albans Saints 4

SL1 NEXT ROUND

Round 3

Langwarrin v FC Clifton Hill
Lawton Park Reserve
Sat 24 Apr KO 3:00PM

Pascoe Vale v Fawkner Blues
Hosken Reserve
Sat 24 Apr KO 3:00PM

Malvern City v Whittlesea Zebras
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Sat 24 Apr KO 3:00PM

St Albans Saints v Western Suburbs
Churchill Reserve
Sun 25 Apr KO 3:00PM

FC Bulleen Lions v North Geelong
Warriors Veneto Social Club
Mon 26 Apr KO 8:30PM

Springvale White Eagles v Preston Lions *White Eagles Stadium*
Mon 26 Apr KO 8:30PM

SL1 LADDER

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FC Bulleen Lions	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Pascoe Vale	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Springvale White E	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Langwarrin	2	1	0	1	3	1	3
Western Suburbs	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Fawkner Blues	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Nth Geelong Warriors	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
St Albans Saints	2	1	1	0	5	3	1
FC Clifton Hill	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Whittlesea Zebras	1	0	0	1	0	1	0

SL1 LADDER

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pascoe Vale	2	2	0	0	10	1	6
FC Bulleen Lions	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Nth Geelong Warriors	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Springvale White E	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Fawkner Blues	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Langwarrin	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Western Suburbs	2	1	0	1	1	6	3
Whittlesea Zebras	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
FC Clifton Hill	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
St Albans Saints	2	1	0	1	4	4	0

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NEW SOUTH WALES

BONDI JUNCTION, RAIL BOOKSTALL BONDI JUNCTION, SHOP 2, 93 GROSVENOR ST
BONDI JUNCTION, BONDI JUNCTION RAILWAY NEWSAGENCY, GRAFTON ST
BONDI JUNCTION, BONDI JUNCTION NEWSAGENCY, 201 OXFORD ST
BONDI JUNCTION, EASTGATE NEWSAGENCY, 71-91 SPRING ST
CHATSWOOD, CHAT'S NEWSAGENCY, 569 PACIFIC HWY
CHATSWOOD, CHATSWOOD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 249, 813 PACIFIC H'WAY CNR HELP ST
CHATSWOOD, CHATSWOOD WESTFIELD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 229-230 WESTFIELD S/TOWN, SPRING ST
HORNSBY , NORTHGATE NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1066 WESTFIELD S/TOWN
HORNSBY, CORONATION STREET NEWSAGENCY, 16 CORONATION ST
HORNSBY, HORNSBY MALL NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1 33 FLORENCE ST
HORNSBY HEIGHTS, HORNSBY HEIGHTS NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 4, 110 GALSTON RD
HORNSBY, TO'S NEWSAGENCY HORNSBY WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN, SHOP 1, 33 FLORENCE ST
BURWOOD, TOMKINS & GODWIN NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 2A, 16-22 BURWOOD RD
BURWOOD, BURWOOD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 7, MURRAY ARCADE, 127-133 BURWOOD RD
PARRAMATTA, DALLAS NEWSAGENCY, THE CONNECTION ARCADE, SHOP 6, 162-172 CHURCH ST
PARRAMATTA, PARRAMATTA CBD NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 16 MAYFAIR MALL, 272 CHURCH ST
PARRAMATTA, SHOP 2 NEW EASTERN SUBWAY, ARGYLE ST
NORTH ROCKS, GOODNEWS NEWSAGENCY, RAMP ON 328-335 NORTH ROCKS RD
NORTH ROCKS, NORTH ROCKS NEWSAGENCY, 312B NORTH ROCKS RD
LIVERPOOL, ELIZABETH DR NEWSAGENCY, UNIT 4 / 1 WOODLANDS RD
LIVERPOOL, LIVERPOOL PLAZA NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 27 LIVERPOOL PLAZA,NORTHUMBERLAND ST
LIVERPOOL, THAI L & V NEWSAGENCY, 64 MOORE ST
HURSTVILLE, FOREST ROAD NEWSAGENCY, 308 FOREST RD
HURSTVILLE, ORMONDE NEWSAGENCY HURSTVILLE, SHOP 4, 14-16 ORMONDE PARADE
HURSTVILLE , NORTH HURSTVILLE NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 4 LEADER BUILDING CNR.FOREST & PARK RD, 182 FOREST RD
MIRANDA , MIRANDA NEWSAGENCY, 88 KIORA RD
MIRANDA, STH MIRANDA NEWSAGENCY, 94A KIORA RD
TUGGERAH, SHOP 1082 WESTFIELD SHOP/TN, COBBS RD
KOTARA, SHOP 133 GARDEN CITY SHOPP CTR, CNR PARK AVE & NORTHCOTT DR
WARRAWONG, SHOP 4, 72-74 KING ST
WARRAWONG, SHOP 39 - 40 WESTFIELD, WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN
WARRAWONG, WARRAWONG NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1, 145 KING ST
FIGTREE, FIGTREE NEWSAGENCY - SHOP 1, 5 BELLEVUE RD
FIGTREE, FIGTREE NEWSAGENCY - SHOPS 29-30, WESTFIELD S/CTR THE AVE
ALBURY, SHOP 4, 557 DEAN ST
COROWA , 65 SANGER ST
WAGGA WAGGA, FERNLEIGH RD
BERRIGAN, 26 CHANTER ST
PENRITH, SCHUBACH'S NEWSAGENCY, 495 HIGH ST
PENRITH, SOUTH PENRITH NEWSAGENCY & PO, 157 SMITH ST
PENRITH, MARKETLAND NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1, 7 CALOOLA AVE
PENRITH, SOUTHLANDS NEWSAGENCY, 157 SMITH ST
PENRITH, PENRITH PLAZA NEWSAGENCY, WOOLWORTHS ENT VIA JANE ST
MOUNT DRUITT, RJ & JP MITCHELL NEWSAGENCY, 2 MOUNT DRUIT RD
MOUNT DRUITT, MOUNT DRUITT NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 16 WESTFIELD SHOPPINGTOWN, NORTH PARADE
BROKEN HILL, LAWRENCE NEWSAGENCY, 121 OXIDE ST
BROKEN HILL, WESTSIDE NEWSAGENCY, GALENA ST

ACT

ROBERTS CANBERRA CITY NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 6, CTRPOINT CITY WALK, CANBERRA
NEWSLINK NEWSAGENTS, 2 MORT ST, CANBERRA
CHUA, SHOP 2 CANBERRA ARCADE, WEST ROW, CANBERRA
HUNT NEWSAGENTS, 74 ALINGA ST, CIVIC CTR, CANBERRA
CONVENTION CENTRE NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 1, 33 ALLARA ST, CANBERRA

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA SQ ARCADE, ADELAIDE
SHOP G11, 44-60 RUNDLE MALL, ADELAIDE
93 O'CONNELL ST, NORTH ADELAIDE
11-12 MALL 1 WEST LAKES MALL, WEST LAKES
SHOP 7, 190 FINDON RD, FINDON
CASTLE PLAZA S/C SHOP 56, SOUTH RD, EDWARDSTOWN
46 JETTY RD, GLENELG
150 GLEN OSMOND RD, FULLARTON
SHOP 22/23 TEA TREE PLAZA S/C, 976 NORTH EAST RD, MODBURY
SOUTH MALL, ELIZABETH SHOPPING CTR, ELIZABETH

WEST AUSTRALIA

NOARLUNGA CENTRE, SHOP 14-15 COLONNADES S/CENTRE, BEACH RD
PERTH, CLOISTERS NEWSAGENCY, SHOPS 7-8 / 865 HAY ST
HILLARYS, WHITFORD CITY NEWSAGENY, SHOP 46, WHITFORD CITY S/CTR
JOONDALUP, LAKESIDE NEWSAGENCY, SH 71 LAKESIDE SHOPPING CTR
BOORAGOON, GARDEN CITY NEWSAGENCY, SHOP 65/125 RISELEY ST

TASMANIA

Ellison Hawker Newsagency, TAS
Angus & Robertson, TAS
Elizabeth Mall Newsagency, TAS

QUEENSLAND

WHITEHEATHER NEWS, 131 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
CITY NEWS, CNR EAGLE & CHARLOTTE STS, AMP BUILDING, BRISBANE
MARA NEWS, SHOP 2, CREST INT HOTEL, ROMA ST, BRISBANE
SUNCORP CENTRE NEWS, SUNCORP METWAY PLAZA, ALBERT ST, BRISBANE
NEWSXPRESS CITY PLAZA , GPO NEWS, CREEK ST, BRISBANE
LUCKY GOLDEN GOOSE NEWS, 140 ADELAIDE ST, BRISBANE
LUCKY GOLDMINE N/A, ADELAIDE ST & CNR EDWARD ST, BRISBANE
GEORGE ST NEWS, 370 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
CITY MALL NEWS, QUEEN ST MALL, BRISBANE
PERRY HOUSE NEWS, CNR ALBERT & ELIZABETH STS, BRISBANE
WINTERGARDEN NEWS, SHOP 166 WINTERGARDEN CENTRE, QUEEN ST MALL ELIZABETH ST ENT, BRISBANE, CENTRAL STATION SUPA, CENTRAL STATION CONCOURSE , ANN ST, BRISBANE
MACS ONE NEWS, NEWSPAPER HOUSE, 289 QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
LUCKY CHINAMAN NEWS, 380 QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
MIDAS CASKET AGENCY, THE FOYER, 363 ADELAIDE ST, BRISBANE
TRANSIT CENTRE NEWS, 3RD LEVEL BRISBANE TRANSIT CNT, ROMA ST, BRISBANE
EAGLE STREET NEWS, GROUND FLOOR, 70 EAGLE ST, BRISBANE
POST OFFICE SQUARE NEWS, POST OFFICE SQUARE, QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
TERRACE NEWS, 149 WICKHAM TCE, BRISBANE
MARY STREET NEWS, 100 EDWARD ST, BRISBANE
PAPERMAN SUPANEWS, MYER CENTRE QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
TERRICA PLACE NEWS, AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CENTRE, 140 CREEK ST, BRISBANE
MYER CENTRE SUPANEWS, LEVEL E, MYER CENTRE, QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
BROADWAY SUPA NEWS, LG12 BRDWAY ON THE MALL, QUEEN ST, BRISBANE
CIVIC ARCADE N/A, SHOP 1, CIVIC ARCADE, 65 ADELAIDE ST, BRISBANE
ALBERT STREET NEWS, 80 ALBERT ST, BRISBANE
MINERAL HOUSE NEWS, 41 GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
GPO NEWS, 40 CREEK ST, BRISBANE
RANKINS ON THE MALL, CNR QUEEN & ALBERT STS, QUEEN ST MALL, BRISBANE
A28 SUPANEWS BRISANE SQUARE, SHOPS 17&18 BRISBANE SQUARE, GEORGE ST, BRISBANE
SUPA NEWS, SHOP GF28, BRDWAY ON THE MALL, 170 QUEEN ST, BRISBANE

United up to second as Blacktown draw

By Mike and Lucy Salter

With Blacktown City, Bonnyrigg and Marconi all held to draws on the weekend, last season's premiers Sydney United eased back into second place with a comfortable 2-0 home win over APIA-Leichhardt. The Italian-backed club, who were playing most of the match with ten men, are now clear last following Sydney Olympic's win on Sunday.

In Saturday night's key encounter, Marconi and Blacktown could not produce a goal at Bossley Park. The home side were far from full strength, and Lee Sterrey was the happier of the two coaches at the final whistle, Blacktown's Aytek Genc ruing his side's many missed chances.

Bonnyrigg, another team in the leading pack, were surprisingly held to a 1-1 draw at home by troubled Manly United. Daniel Severino's goal late in the first half was met by a poacher's special from Manly's Robbie Cattanach, and the visitors might well have taken all three points in a thrilling final fifteen minutes. Sadly, Bonnyrigg keeper Phil Zabaks was severely concussed in a challenge towards the end of the game, and was immediately taken to hospital. He is recovering slowly.

The other encounter on Saturday evening saw Sutherland's season take a turn for the worse, as they were thrashed 3-0 at home by Bankstown City, who showed that last week's defeat by Marconi had not dampened their spirits.

On Sunday, the Rockdale City Suns continued their fine run by defeating the South Coast Wolves at the latter's home ground. The two sides traded goals just before the interval, but a goal two minutes after the restart proved enough for the competition newcomers, who are now firmly entrenched in the top five.

Details of Sunday's other game follow...

Sydney Olympic 2-0 West Sydney Berries

In the season's first "Greek derby", Sydney Olympic gained a desperately-needed three points against a lacklustre Berries outfit, who never recovered from two fearful defensive lapses towards the end of the first half.

There were chances for both sides in the opening minutes; Berries midfielder Stefan de Jesus had a shot deflected wide in the second minute, and soon afterwards Andre Gumprecht slid the ball forward for Olympic's French striker Cedric Ramirez, who shot wide on the turn.

Olympic should have gone ahead in the eighth minute when another well-weighted pass from Gumprecht set Ramirez clean through on goal. The Frenchman took one touch too many, however, and Berries keeper Hamish McLean was out in time to avert the danger.

For a long time, the game was stuck in second gear. A free kick from Olympic's Chris Triantis sailed over on 15 minutes, and there were two half-chances for the visitors towards the mid-point of the half, Sash Tirovski having a shot blocked and captain David Gardiner heading over from a set-piece.

Ramirez had another excellent chance to put his side ahead on 27 minutes, when the Berries defence inexplicably pushed up beyond the half-way line, allowing the striker to beat the offside trap with ease. Once again, a poor touch took him wide of goal, and the Berries defence managed to scramble the ball clear.

Paul Henderson, lately of the North Queensland Fury, was making his Olympic debut, and he showed his value on 33 minutes. A fine Berries move on the right ended with Dimitri Zakilas crossing nicely from the right to de Jesus in the centre. The midfielder pounded a volley at goal, and Henderson made a superb save, diving full-length to his right.

It proved to be a crucial moment, as Olympic opened the scoring soon afterwards. A simple ball over the top from midfield produced confusion between McLean and the Berries centre-backs, and Ramirez ran on to claim the ball; as McLean belatedly advanced, the ball broke to Iain Ramsay on the left, who fired the ball low into the far corner. 1-0 to Olympic, and relief all around the Belmore Sportsground.

The Berries showed that they had not learned their lesson two minutes later. Another ball over the top, another chase, and this time Daniel Clifford totally underestimated the danger, trotting back for the ball while Matthew Mayora charged forward. Mayora quickly overtook his marker and found time to bring the ball onto his left foot and thump it home.

NSW action between Sutherland Sharks and Bankstown City Lions. PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO

The visitors had the better of an insipid second half, but rarely looked likely to break through. An out-of-sorts Zakilas twice headed wide around the hour, and two attempts to beat the alert Henderson from the edge of the box, from Jesse Pinto and Tirovski respectively, were predictably unsuccessful. Kosta Lagoudakis, returning to his old home ground, tested Henderson again on 73 minutes, but again the former Northern Spirit hero was up to the task.

On 84 minutes came the Berries' best chance of the half, when substitute Damir Prodanovic eluded Luke Gearin with a pleasing display of skill, but failed to find the target from fifteen yards. At the other end, an Olympic substitute, James Monie, set up Ramsay cleverly in the centre, but Olympic's winger couldn't score his second of the afternoon, blasting the ball straight at McLean. Ramsay and Monie combined again a minute later to create a chance for Mayora to add to his tally, but the Olympic captain shanked the ball onto the railroad tracks under some pressure from the Berries defence.

A precious 2-0 win for Pat Marando's struggling side, who move clear of the bottom of the table and within a point of their opponents.

NSW LADDER

	P	W	L	Pts
Blacktown City FC	8	5	0	18
Sydney United	8	5	1	17
Marconi Stallions	8	5	1	17
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	8	4	1	15
Rockdale City Suns	8	3	1	13
Manly United FC	8	2	3	9
Bankstown City	8	2	4	8
South Coast Wolves	8	2	4	8
West Sydney Berries	8	2	4	8
Sutherland Sharks	8	2	5	7
Sydney Olympic	8	2	5	7
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	8	1	6	4

NSW RESULTS

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 8: FIRST GRADE: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 (Daniel Severino 45m) Manly United 1 (Robert Cattanach 75m), Sutherland Sharks 0 Bankstown City Lions 3 (Robert Mileski 34m Tallan Martin 46m Bill Tsandis 82m), Marconi Stallions 0 Blacktown City FC 0, Sydney Olympic 2 (Iann Ramsay 38m Matthew Mayora 43m) West Sydney Berries 0, South Coast Wolves 1 (Mark Picciolini 37m) Rockdale City Suns 2 (Marino Musumeci 35m Sam Awad 46m), Sydney United FC 2 (David Zdrilic 10m Mirijam Pavlovic 28m) APIA Leichhardt Tigers 0.

GRADE 20: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 Manly United 3, Sutherland Sharks 1 Bankstown City Lions 1, Marconi Stallions 1 Blacktown City FC 0, Sydney Olympic 3 West Sydney Berries 1, South Coast Wolves 3 Rockdale City Suns 1, Sydney United FC 2 APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1. GRADE 18: Sydney Olympic 2 West Sydney Berries 2.

GRADE 18: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4 Manly United 2, Sutherland Sharks 5 Bankstown City Lions 1, Marconi Stallions 2 Blacktown City FC 1.

NSW SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 5: FIRST GRADE: Spirit FC 3 (L Papanicolau 11m S Meney 16m B Gough 62m) Parramatta Eagles 1 (K Elrich 53m), Central Coast Lightning 0 Fraser Park 1 (S Kostanic 40m), St George FC 2 (R Maekawa 45m B Gibson 65m) Granville Rage 1 (K Holbrook 92m). GRADE 20: Spirit FC 0 Parramatta Eagles 4, Central Coast Lightning 3 Fraser Park 2, St George FC 2 Granville Rage 0.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: ROUND 5: FIRST GRADE: Stanmore Hawks 0 Inter Lions 2 (P Polistina 35m D Di Mento 86m), Schofield Scorpions 2 (J Schuman 44m Z Watters 70m) Fairfield City Lions 3 (Y Ekinci 7m P Bouzanis 34m M Costantini 52m), Mounties Wanderers 3 (S Biviano 31/34m D McCann 36m) Balmain SC 1 (G Buonavoglia 60m), Blacktown Spartans 2 (M Todd 58m R Iredale 69m) Camden Tigers 1 (A Smutek 23m), Hills Brumbies 2 (L Darkoh 69/75m) Gladesville Ryde Magic 1 (A Kabbara 83m). GRADE 20: Stanmore Hawks 1 Inter Lions 0, Schofield Scorpions 1 Fairfield City Lions 1, Mounties Wanderers 3 Balmain SC 0, Blacktown Spartans 0 Camden Tigers 2, Hills Brumbies 1 Gladesville Ryde Magic 3.

STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO: ROUND 4: FIRST GRADE: Hawkesbury City SC 0 Luddenham United 1 (D Urosevski 41m), Prospect United 2 (P Curjak 50m R Portelli 65m) Springwood United 1 (M Kelly 40m). GRADE 20: Hawkesbury City SC 2 Luddenham United 2, Prospect United 0 Springwood United 1.

NEXT ROUND

Round 9

3pm Sun 25/Apr Syd Olympic v Sth Coast Wolves
Belmore Sports Ground
3pm Sun 25/Apr Rockdale C Suns v B'rigg White Eagles
Bicentenial Park Sth
3pm Sun 25/Apr Manly Utd v Marconi Stallions
Cromer Park
3pm Sun 25/Apr Bankstown City v Syd Utd
Jensen Park
3pm Sun 25/Apr APIA L'hardt Tigers v West Syd Berries
Leichhardt Oval
3pm Sun 25/Apr Blacktown City v S'land Sharks
Lily Homes

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Knights, Sth Hobart open gap

By Walter Pless

South Hobart and Glenorchy Knights still lead the pack in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League competition after both won their matches on Saturday.

Knights took a 2-point lead at the top after downing Olympia Warriors 4-1 at South Hobart in the afternoon, but South Hobart regained their earlier 1-point lead when they accounted for Clarence United 2-0 away at Wentworth Park in the evening.

Knights almost took the lead against Olympia in the 19th minute when Amadu Koroma broke free on the left and played a tantalising ball across the goalmouth, but Ben Phillips had time to clear the danger.

In the 24th minute, Olympia's resistance was broken. Daniel White's corner from the left was flicked on by Koroma and goalkeeper Dmitri Nester could only punch the ball wide of his goal. Alex Holmes nodded it back into the danger area and Juma Barabara fired it home to give Knights the lead.

Olympia were level three minutes later following a Nick Meredith free-kick from deep on the right. Holmes and fellow defender Jacob Huigsloot impeded each other and failed to clear the ball, allowing Brody Cronk a strike at goal. Knights keeper Ben Peter could only parry the shot and Olympia defender Adam Hedge knocked the ball into the net.

Olympia striker Kosta Grillas came off a minute later with a recurrence of a hamstring injury and he may now miss many weeks of action. He had suffered the injury two weeks ago but persuaded coach Chris Hey that he was fit for this match. He had obviously returned to action much too soon.

Olympia's Zimbabwean recruit Warren Wadawu should have given his side the lead in the 34th minute when he collected a perfect pass from Meredith, but faced with only the goalkeeper to beat, he mis-hit his shot and the ball rolled tamely into Peter's arms.

Having been let off the hook in this way, Knights restored their lead in the 36th minute after a long throw-in from the left by Jade Clay. The ball was flicked into the 6-yard box by Koroma and Olympia keeper Nester could only flap at it and force it on towards the far post, where White came steaming in to smash a bullet-like shot into the roof of the net.

Two minutes later, it was 3-1 for the visitors after they were awarded a penalty when Hedge was adjudged to have handled Huigsloot's fierce drive at goal. White easily despatched the spot-kick to claim his second goal of the game.

Phillips hit the bar for Olympia in the second half, while they should also have had a penalty when Tony Dzelalija brought down Chris Kumpulainen, but it was the Knights who extended their lead in the 72nd minute through Koroma, who tucked home White's cross from the left.

Knights might have had another couple of goals, too, as Nester turned a Huigsloot header against the woodwork and White missed a simple header from close range.

Olympia probably deserved something from this game, but life is tough at the bottom of the table.

A 10th minute deflected shot by Tom Roach put South Hobart ahead against Clarence United, while the home side had an 'equaliser' by Luke Cripps disallowed through off-side 13 minutes from the end.

South were down to 10 men at that stage as Garry Upton had been sent off for striking Ben Hamlett.

Jonathon Lo sealed the victory when he scored a simple goal after David Abbott's long cross from deep on the left had found his team-mate in space with not a defender in sight.

NORTH RESULTS

Burnie United 2-4 Prospect Knights
Devonport City 5-0 Somerset
Launceston United 0-7 Ulverstone
Riverside Olympic 2-2 Northern Rangers

SOUTH RESULTS

Clarence United 0 lost to South Hobart 2
Hobart Olympia 1 lost to Glenorchy Knights 4

NORTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burnie United	3	3	0	1	23	7	9
Devonport City	3	3	0	0	11	2	9
Northern Rangers	3	2	1	0	13	5	7
Riverside Olympic	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
Ulverstone	3	2	0	1	10	3	6
Prospect Knights	4	2	0	2	9	13	6
Somerset	4	1	0	3	6	15	3
Launceston City	3	0	0	3	2	7	0
Launceston United	4	0	0	4	3	28	0

SOUTH LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	6	5	1	0	14	2	16
Glenorchy Knights	6	5	0	1	21	9	15
Tilford Zebras	5	2	2	1	9	9	8
Kingborough Lions	5	2	1	2	7	9	7
New Town Eagles	5	1	2	2	10	10	5
Clarence United	6	1	2	3	7	13	5
Taroona	5	1	1	3	9	14	4
Hobart Olympia	6	0	1	5	5	16	1

NEXT ROUND

Round 5
Saturday 24th April
Prospect Knights v Ulverstone
Harley Parade 2.30pm
Northern Rangers v Burnie United *NTCA 2.30pm*
Launceston United v Devonport City *Birch Avenue 2.30pm*
Somerset v Launceston City
Cardigan Street 2.30pm
Riverside Olympic - *Bye*

NEXT ROUND

Round 7
Friday 23rd April
Glenorchy Knights v Taroona
KGV Park 8pm

Saturday 24th April
Kingborough Lions v Clarence United *Lightwood Park 2.30pm*
Tilford Zebras v Hobart Olympia
KGV Park 6.30pm

Sunday 25th April
South Hobart v New Town Eagles
South Hobart 2.30pm

Olympia's Ben Phillips (left) and Knights' Mynonge Kamba.
PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

Olympia's Owyn Howell (left) pursues Knights' Jade Clay.
PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

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Tunbridge hat trick inspires MetroStars

By Lee Gagliardi

Adelaide Blue Eagles have held out to record their second successive win of the season after a nail biting 6-2 against Adelaide Cobras.

ABE led 3-0 at half time before the Cobras mounted a fight back to get the score to 3-2 before the Blue Eagles piled on three goals to take all three points.

"We came out a bit lethargic after half time, probably thinking the game was won," said Blue Eagles old hand Lino Sattin.

"It was a good lesson to never rest on your lead. We put the after burners on and came away with the points."

Chad Bugeja bagged a hattrick in a best on ground performance while Fortunato Filleti, Evan Kounavelis and Kym Harris all got amongst the goals as well.

Filleti and Kounavelis also collected votes for their superb display for ABE.

Oliver Totani found the back of the net for the Cobras, as did Adrian Aufiero against his former club, but it wasn't enough for the newly promoted side.

Ross Calabria was the visitors best with Paul Marino and Totani also standing out.

Round 5 sees ABE travel to Raiders who are still winless while the Cobras face last year's grand finalist, Adelaide City in the Monday night fixture.

Cumberland and Western Strikers played out the match of the round in a thrilling encounter that saw the visitors take home the points in a 4-3 win.

Western Strikers led 2-1 at half time in the nail biting contest that saw seven individual goal scorers.

Steven Stefanopolous, Michele La Stella, Cullam Flanagan and Steve McNeil got on the score sheet for the Strikers while Shaun Smith, Jody Loomes and Brenton Macdonald found the net for Cumberland.

The Foxes goal scorers also collected votes for solid contributions as the Strikers bounced back from their loss in Round 3.

Cumberland got back in the game early in the second half and led 3-2 before the Strikers twice hit back at the death to take the points.

"It was a much needed win. We had to win so it was great to get three points and even better to play well," said Stefanopolous, who was discarded last season by coach Charlie Villani, who has since moved to Adelaide City.

The nimble speedster has enjoyed a stunning return to top flight football after a year spent keeping fit in the amateurs.

"It's just good to be playing again, and enjoying myself. I'm very happy to be back."

Brazilian import Felipe Da Silva was man of the match for the Strikers while Flanagan and Suk Jung Dae also stood out.

Strikers will look to back up the win with a home game against Para Hills while Cumberland host league leader Metro Stars.

A Scott Tunbridge-inspired Metro Stars cemented its place atop the Super League table with a stunning 4-1 win over Para Hills.

Tunbridge bagged a hattrick for the league leaders with Jackson Groves rounding out the thrashing with the other.

Action from the seven goal thriller between Cumberland United and Western Strikers. PHOTO: ADAM BUTLER

Russell Clayton scored a consolation for Para Hills while Ben Moore was the Knights best in a busy afternoon for the keeper. Captain Aaron Goulding and Matt Marchioro was also solid but unable to prevent defeat.

With the scores locked 1-1 at half time, it was Metro Stars who ran riot in the second half. Louis Brain and Adam van Dommelle showed their National League experience in getting Metro over the line.

Round 5 has Metro away to Cumberland with Para Hills travelling to the Western Strikers.

Raiders have continued their poor start to the season going down 1-0 to Campbelltown City and remaining at the bottom of the Super League table without a win.

A first half Pasquale Barbaro strike was enough for the Red Devils to keep the pressure on front runners Metro Stars.

Ali Toure was outstanding for Campbelltown with Barbaro and Vas Parhas in great form also.

Cody Larkin was the Raiders standout with a solid display between the posts. Daniel Hain also battled hard with Craig Goodwin showing some good form.

The Raiders are left struggling with a solitary point from the opening four rounds and meet ABE in Round 5 who are on the back of consecutive wins.

Campbelltown host Adelaide galaxy who had a solid win over Adelaide City in Round 4.

Adelaide Galaxy pulled off the upset of the round with a stunning 3-0 win over favourite Adelaide City.

A double from Markham and Shaun McGreevy were enough for Galaxy as they raced to a 2-0 half time lead.

Michael DeBono was in blistering form for Galaxy in the Saturday night fixture with Markham and Tom Dittmar also standing out.

City's best were Nicholas Orr, Matthew Halliday and David Paladino.

Adelaide City will look to make a mends in a fortnight in Round 5 when they host Adelaide Cobras in the Monday night fixture and Galaxy travel to Campbelltown City.

PREMIER LEAGUE-

West Adelaide scored its first win of the season in the local Greek Derby posting a 2-1 victory over Adelaide Olympic.

A double from Harry Skoumbros in the second half cancelled out a Nathan Andijanto strike to give West Adelaide its first points of the season.

Dion Lambrinos was best on ground for West Adelaide with Skoumbros and Kon Tsacos also strong.

Adrian Iandorio and Paul Pezos were standouts for Olympic but were unable to prevent defeat.

Despite the off-season signings of Olympic, they remain winless as West Adelaide leapfrogged them off the bottom of the ladder after the win.

Round 5 has West Adelaide host Salisbury while Olympic will be searching for its first win against another struggling squad, White City.

The Pirates and Croydon shared the points in a hard fought 0-0 draw.

Croydon was on the back of a 4-1 pumping at the hands of Modbury while the Pirates were on fire after a 4-1 defeat of White City.

Ross Gray, Luke Kilmek and Phil Kirreh was solid performers for the Kings while Scott Ungluabe continued his sensational early season from with a standout display, after his four goals last week.

Johnny Mavromatsis was also good for the Pirates while Michael Speer collected a vote for the Pirates between the posts.

Round 5 has the Pirates away to Modbury in the Friday night fixture while Croydon will face Adelaide Comets.

Enfield City has continued its stunning start to Premier League life after promotion from the State League, with the Falcons third win of the season coming after a 2-1 win over Salisbury.

Former Metro Stars, Mark Graham and Jim Stavrides got on the score sheet for Enfiled either side of half time as the Falcons took home all three points.

Matthew Bekirovski found the back of the net for Salisbury with Corrie van Paridon in sensational form for the Berries in goal. Brenton Agars was also solid with Russell Deeley in turning in a good display.

Stavrides took home man of the match honours with Rocco Fimmano and Ange Pavanello also standing out.

"Jim has been a great recruit for us, he had a brilliant game Saturday," said Enfield coach Peter Cristarella.

"Salisbury was a tough game, we're happy where we are but there's still a long way to go."

Enfield meet Adelaide Hills in the top of the table clash in Round 5 in what Cristarella believes will be a huge task for his squad.

"The League is so close and the Hills will be the real test for us. We're looking for a top five finish so we have to just keep going."

Salisbury is away to West Adelaide who is on the back of recording its first win of the campaign.

Adelaide Hills has cemented its place on top of the Premier League table after extending its 100 percent record to four games with a 1-0 win over White City.

A second half goal from Nick Rathjen was enough for the Hawks to secure all three points.

Simon Wegner, Nathan Elliot and Damian Stam were all impressive for Adelaide Hills in the win that sent them top of the table and set up a top of the table clash with Enfield in Round 5.

White City has struggled so far this campaign after narrowly missing out on promotion late last season.

Richmond Kgatle, Milos Tosic and Michael Keens were all standouts for the Warriors but couldn't prevent White City going down.

White City are away to fellow struggler Adelaide Olympic, who are still winless, while the Hills meet Enfield in a first versus second blockbuster.

SA RESULTS

Adelaide Blue Eagles 6 (C.Bugeja 3, E.Kounavelis, F.Filleti, K.Harris)
Adelaide Cobras 2 (O.Totani, A.Aufiero)
(HT 3-0)
Best – Blue Eagles (C.Bugeja, E.Kounavelis, F.Filleti)
Cobras (R.Calabria, R.Marino, O.Totani)
Res – Blue Eagles 4
Cobras 0
U19 – Blue Eagles 4
Cobras 1

Cumberland United 3 (S.Smith, J.Loomes, B.Macdonald)
Western Strikers 4 (S.Stefanopoulos, C.Flanagan, S.McNeil, M.Lastella)
(HT 1-2)
Best – Cumberland (J.Loomes, B.Macdonald, S.Smith)
Strikers (F.Da Silva, C.Flanagan, J. Suk Dae)
Res – Cumberland 1
Strikers 0
U19 – Cumberland 1
Strikers 2

MetroStars 4 (S.Tunbridge 3, J.Groves)
Para Hills 1 (R.Clayton)
(HT 1-1)
Best – MetroStars (S.Tunbridge, L.Brain, A.Van Dommele) Para Hills (B.Moore, A.Goulding, M.Marchioro)
Res – MetroStars 2
Para Hills 0
U19 – MetroStars 2
Para Hills 1

Raiders 0
Campbelltown City 1 (P.Barbaro)
(HT 0-1)
Best – Raiders (C.Larkin, D.Hain, C.Goodwin) Campbelltown (A.Toure, P.Barbaro, V.Parhas)
Res – Raiders 1
Campbelltown 3
U19 – Raiders 2
Campbelltown 4

Adelaide Galaxy 3 (J.Markham 2, S.McGreevy)
Adelaide City 0 (HT 2-0)
Best – Galaxy (M.Debono, J.Markham, T.Dittmar)
Adel City (N.Orr, M.Halliday, D.Paladino)
Res – Galaxy 0 Adel City 1
U19 – Galaxy 1 Adel City 4

NEXT ROUND

Round 5
Sat 01/05/2010
Campbelltown vs Adelaide Galaxy
3pm Marden Sports Complex
Cumberland Utd vs MetroStars
3pm Bailey Reserve
Raiders vs Adelaide Blue Eagles
3pm Croatian Sports Centre
Western Strikers vs Para Hills
7pm Carnegie Reserve

Mon 03/05/2010
Adelaide City vs Adelaide Cobras
7.30pm Adelaide City Park

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
MetroStars	4	3	1	0	13	5	8	10
Campbelltown City	4	3	0	1	7	7	0	9
Adelaide Galaxy	4	2	2	0	6	2	4	8
Adelaide City	4	2	1	1	6	7	-1	7
Adelaide Blue Eagles	4	2	0	2	11	8	3	6
Western Strikers	4	2	0	2	10	10	0	6
Adelaide Cobras	4	1	1	2	6	10	-4	4
Cumberland Utd	4	1	0	3	9	11	-2	3
Para Hills	4	0	2	2	4	9	-5	2
Raiders	4	0	1	3	4	7	-3	1

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Bulls win best of eleven goals

By Jarrod Ellis

Round 4 of the QSL kicked off on Saturday night, the pick of the matches being a top of the table clash between the two competition heavyweights, Brisbane Strikers and Sunshine Coast Fire.

The Fire have long held a potent attack in the QSL and this season has been no different with the club averaging four goals a game before the match against Brisbane. That potency would be demonstrated to its full effect only two minutes into the match as the visitors took an early lead.

Sunshine Coast won a free kick in the Strikers half and wasted no time as Aaron Blazendale launched the ball high into the six-yard box as towering centre forward Shaun Blackman tussled for position against the Brisbane defence. Blackman rose above the opposition, heading the ball down towards 2009 QSL MVP Tyson Holmes who had no trouble beating Brendan White from close range to give the visitors a 1-0 lead.

The Strikers offered their first real threat when Chris Di Sipio played Matt Thurtell though on goal. Thurtell was clear of the defensive line but Sunshine Coast goalkeeper Sam Nicholls had spotted the danger and sprinted off his line to smother Thurtell's shot on the stretch.

As the match went into the seventeenth minute the Fire's normally reliable forward, Jai Cross, missed two excellent opportunities to give his side a two-goal lead. The first was owed to an embarrassing moment for the home side's centre half, Matija Simic, who got the ball tangled up under his feet as the ball was played back to him on the edge of his penalty area. The ball popped loose from Simic's feet just as Cross bore down on him, leaving the striker one-on-one with White, but White came out the winner as he flung himself to his left to hold Cross's shot two-handed.

But ten minutes later the visitors did get their second goal, and once again Blackman was the provider as the Strikers' defence failed to get to grips with him under another high ball from the right. There was perhaps a hint that the ball had dropped to the turf off Blackman's arm as he won the contest to get to the ball first, but Sunshine Coast midfielder Corey Towle didn't care and he showed tremendous technique to lean to his right as he swung his left boot at the bouncing ball to blast a scorching volley to make the score 2-0.

The Striker toiled away unable to seemingly break the Sunshine Coast defence but their efforts were rewarded as half time approached.

Having won a corner kick, Chay Hews flighted the ball towards the near post where a headed flick on produced an opportunity for midfielder Michale Angus to sweep the ball into the net on the half-volley to reduce the deficit to one goal.

A couple of minutes later on the stroke of half time Angus delivered a searching ball across the face of the Fire's six yard box that eluded several players allowing Sean Burke to become the second Brisbane Striker on the night to score his maiden goal for the club as he forced the ball past Nicholls from close range.

Outplayed for all but the last fifteen minutes of the half, the Strikers would have been delighted with themselves to go into the dressing rooms at half time on level terms. But delight turned to frustration within a minute of the restart as the Fire worked the ball up to the Strikers' eighteen yard box to Holmes. The Fire midfielder took three yellow shirts with him as he dribbled the ball across the face of the area before swivelling to thread the ball between defenders as he saw Cross make a run into the box. Cross's run, and the timing of the pass from Tyson, completely deceived the Strikers' defence allowing Cross to blast the ball past White for an emphatic finish to make the score 3-2 to the visitors.

From there Sunshine Coast appeared happy to attack almost solely on the counter as Brisbane dominated possession for the remainder of the match. Despite such a disparity in possession the Strikers were unable to breach a determined Fire defence and their best chances for an equaliser were a couple of calls for a penalty that were waved away by referee David Weibe.

In the remaining matches of the round Bundaberg Spirit were desperately unlucky not to have come away from Gladstone with a point as Capricorn Cougars found a winner in injury time. Young midfielder Justin McMullen was the hero for the home side who had the better of the visitors for the majority of the match but were unable to make their chances count until McMullen struck in the 91st minute to give his side a valuable 1-0 win.

NQ Razorbacks returned to Brolga Park for their match against Whitsunday Miners and after their heavy loss to FNQ Bulls in Round 3 they would have been desperate to get back to winning ways. The Miners were without keeper Brad Moss following his brain snap against the Strikers in last week that saw him sent off and suspended.

Razorbacks fans shouldn't have been concerned about the club continuing their poor form as they ran out comfortable 2-0 winners.

The visitors had the better of proceedings in the opening twenty minutes but were unable to breach an impressive Razorbacks defence led by captain, Michael Lancini. From there the Razorbacks took control, keeping the visitors under a prolonged period of pressure that eventually lead to midfielder Brett Hay opening the scoring with his first goal of the season in the 34th minute.

Another midfielder Lee Mayberry got his name on the scoresheet as he scored the second with a wicked shot from twenty-five yards out eleven minutes after the break. The win sees the Razorbacks move into third place behind Sunshine Coast and FNQ Bulls, who won an astounding match late on Sunday against QAS 7-4 at Meakin Park.

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Sunshine Coast FC	4	4	0	0	15	8	7	12
2 FNQ Bulls	4	3	0	1	13	9	4	9
3 NQ Razorbacks	4	2	1	1	4	3	1	7
4 Brisbane Strikers	4	2	0	2	5	4	1	6
5 Capricorn Cougars	4	1	1	2	3	5	-2	4
6 QAoS	3	1	0	2	8	12	-4	3
7 Bundaberg Spirit	4	0	1	3	1	4	-3	1
8 Whitsunday Miners	3	0	1	2	0	4	-4	1

NEXT ROUND

ROUND 5

Bundaberg Spirit v Brisbane Strikers
Sat 24 April 7:00pm
FNQ Bulls v Capricorn Cougars
Sat 24 April 8:00pm
Sunshine Coast FC v Whitsunday Miners
Sun 25 April 1:30pm
QAS v NQ Razorbacks
Sun 25 April 2:00pm

RESULTS

Capricorn Cougars 1
Bundaberg Spirit 0

Brisbane Strikers FC 2
Sunshine Coast FC 3

NQ McDonald's Razorbacks 2
Whitsunday Miners 0

Queensland Academy of Sport 4
FNQ Bulls 7

Perth Brush Past Inglewood

By Ashley Morrison

When last season's champions Perth played host to Inglewood it was already a game between a side that will challenge for honours and another that will fight to stay mid-table. The gulf in talent that each side possessed was reflected in the fact that the Perth bench had David Onoforo, Greg Sharland and Robbie Puca sitting on it. All of these players well established successful players at this level and higher.

ECU Joondalup's Chris Wylie and Swan United's Trent Wood in action in the 2-2 draw at Francis Street PHOTO: PETER SIMCOX

The first have was most memorable for the chances missed than the goals scored. Perth however took the lead in the 12th minute when Sciascia made a surging run down the left hand side and delivered a telling cross that Worton, in the heart of the defence fro Inlgewood could only head vertically. As the ball dropped and with his back to goal McMurray attempted and pulled off an overhead kick that left Taseski stranded.

Within two minutes Inglewood were back on level terms. Mladen Kovacevic broke down the left and crossed, Saldaris in goal for Perth replacing the dropped Martino, came of his line and should have gathered, but took his eye off the ball and it spilled loose. Ryan Clarke was on hand to side-foot home into an empty net to pull Inglewood back level.

Then came a series of opportunities for both sides where the strikers should have done better. Clarke for Inglewood did well to make space for a shot at the edge of the Perth box, but he lifted his shot over the cross bar in the 16th minute. Five minutes later McMurray missed from four metres after Danskin broke down the left and crossed to him unmarked at the front post, but the ball ricocheted off his shins and out of play. He did somehow win a corner from this glaring miss, which was a bonus.

Next Inglewood broke and had three on one, with Aaron Colli carrying the ball forward, his pass was not a good one, but Kilkelly could not clear effectively, the ball fell to the tireless Lee Carr who shot, but Saldaris saved superbly and Perth Survived.

Danksin was then denied by Taseski in goal for Inglewood after a surging run that left Stamatiades in his wake.

Perth came out for the second half and sealed the match in the first ten minutes. Hayden Doyle set the tone immediately with a thirty-metre drive that smashed into the post so hard the whole goal frame shook for seconds after, the rebound fell to Sciascia, but he could only find the side netting with his effort.

In the 50th minute Naglieri, who had a quiet day by his standards played a sublime defence splitting pass to McMurray, and the big striker hammered the ball into the roof of the net as Taseski came out to smother.

Three minutes later it was Naglieri again whose quick thinking unlocked Inglewood again. Fouled on the halfway line wide on the right, he quickly placed the ball and clipped a cross over the top of the static Inglewood defence. It fell perfectly to Andreas Oliviera who slotted past Taseski, and at 3-1 the game looked to be all over.

They could have made it four ten minutes later when a beautiful flowing move that saw first time passing between Naglieri, McMurray and Oliviera, but the latter's shot whistled the wrong side of the post. The substitute Onoforo wasted a golden opportunity within seconds of being introduced when free at the back post he headed wide.

Inglewood had Falconi dismissed for a second yellow card, but this seemed to bring out the best of them and in the last fifteen minutes they had opportunities to pull level, but they lacked the finesse to take advantage of the openings they created. This showing that Perth despite their superiority are still prone to give you opening at the back, but with those opportunities being rare to compete opposing teams must take advantage of them when they come their way. This win saw Perth move up to second on the league ladder and Inglewood drop to last.

In other games, the honeymoon was over for new Stirling Lions coach Paul Lincoln as his side were defeated 3-1 at home to Sorrento, David Foster scoring a brace for Sorrento. His task not made easier with two players deciding to leave the club this week following the dismissal of former coach Mick Lyons.

ECU Joondalup fought back from being a goal down to take a 2-1 lead until the 91st minute when Swan United's Boland grabbed a late equaliser. Scott Miller's Cockburn City jumped from last place to 8th with their 3-1 win over newly promoted Balcatta. Ashley Rosindale amazingly missed two penalties for Balcatta in this game, both saved by the Cockburn 'keeper. This was Balcatta's first defeat of the season.

Top of the table and now the only undefeated team in the league, the Western Knights went in at half time 4-0 to the good against Mandurah City. Mandurah fought back in the second half to put three past the Knights who are uncharacteristically leaking goals, but last season's league premiers came out on top 5-3.

In the late game Armadale made it two wins on the trot surprising many by beating Ante Kovacevic's Floreat Athena 1-0.

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Western Knights	5	4	1	0	18	9	9	13
2 Perth SC	5	4	0	1	15	11	4	12
3 Balcatta	5	3	1	1	11	9	2	10
4 Floreat Athena	4	3	0	1	15	6	9	9
5 Stirling Lions	5	2	1	2	5	6	-1	7
6 Sorrento	5	2	1	2	9	11	-2	7
7 Armadale	4	1	2	1	7	4	3	5
8 Cockburn City	5	1	1	3	5	6	-1	4
9 ECU Joondalup	5	1	1	3	10	13	-3	4
10 Swan United	5	1	1	3	5	10	-5	4
11 Mandurah City	5	1	1	3	6	14	-8	4
12 Inglewood United	5	1	0	4	7	14	-7	3

WA RESULTS

First Team
Stirling Lions 1 (Robinson 43) Sorrento 3 (Thomas 15, Foster 30, 65); Swan United 2 (Shepheard 35, Bolan 91) ECU Joondalup 2 (Thornley 41, McCulloch 85); Western Knights 5 (Hind 22, Versaico 28, Micevski 29, Montgomery 40, Van Dongen 52) Mandurah City 3 (Rhodes 44, Brown 64, Townsend 89); Perth SC 3 (McMurray 12, 50, Oliveira 53) Inglewood United 1 (Clarke 14,); Cockburn City 3 (Fearley 86, J Dos Santos 88, Findlater 92) Balcatta 1 (Black 30); Armadale Floreat Athena (6pm kick-off)

Reserves
Stirling Lions 5 Sorrento 2; Swan United 3 ECU Joondalup 0; Western Knights 1 Mandurah City 3; Perth SC 4 Inglewood United 2; Cockburn City 0 Balcatta 2; Armadale Floreat Athena

Under 18's
Stirling Lions 2 Sorrento 1; Swan United 0 ECU Joondalup 2; Western Knights 1 Mandurah City 2; Perth SC 3 Inglewood United 1; Cockburn City 2 Balcatta 3; Armadale 0 Floreat Athena 2

NEXT ROUND

Round 6

Sat 24 Apr 3PM Floreat Athena v Stirling Lions
E & D Litis Stadium
Sat 24 Apr 3PM ECU Joondalup v Armadale
ECU Joondalup
Sat 24 Apr 3PM Sorrento v Cockburn City
Percy Doyle Reserve
Sat 24 Apr 3PM Inglewood United v Swan United
The Clipsal Stadium
Sat 24 Apr 3PM Balcatta v Western Knights
Grindleford Reserve
Sat 24 Apr 6PM Mandurah City v Perth SC

Canberra FC, Panthers hold firm

By Russ Gibbs

Champions Canberra FC and Gatorade Premier League newcomers Monaro Panthers remain the only unbeaten teams after two rounds of the ACT top flight competition. The Champions followed their opening weekend 11-1 win over Tuggeranong United by racking up a further four goals in seeing off Canberra City, whilst the Panthers were 5-1 victors at Tuggeranong United.

Stephen Lee was the main man for Canberra FC at Deakin Stadium on Sunday evening string a brace of goals in the first half to give Stan Dukic's team a firm stranglehold on the match, quelling the hopes of Canberra City. City had started exceptionally well with Coach Pat Caggiano describing the opening forays as the best he had ever seen from his team.

It was somewhat against the run of play that Lee struck after 21 minutes to give Canberra FC the lead before City deservedly levelled via David Dexter, his second goal in consecutive matches, in the 39th minute. Having equalised City fatally lapsed in concentration and barely sixty seconds later Lee struck again to give Canberra FC the lead. Amazingly a minute before the interval the game as almost settled as Adam Spaleta drove home the third goal.

With a 3-1 advantage Canberra FC were always in control of the second half and extended their lead in the 54th minute when flying winger Ivan Pavlak made it 4-1. Another convincing win sets up Canberra FC well for the ANZAC break after which they face ANU FC, again at Deakin Stadium.

The round kicked off on Friday evening when two traditional ACT heavyweights, Canberra Olympic and Belconnen United, clashed on the synthetic turf at Hawker Football Centre. The match was a repeat of the Project Coordination Federation Cup quarter final fixture from last month where Belconnen, despite being reduced to ten men following the first-half dismissal of striker David Leet, had triumphed 4-0 precipitating the resignation of Olympic Coach Ian Heywood.

New Coach at Olympic, Dean Ugrinic, seems to have found the key to a more solid Olympic defence, the bane of the club in recent years, as they held the Blue Devils scoreless in a 0-0 draw. Scott Conlon's Belconnen United had the better chances in a match largely devoid of clear cut openings with the closest either coming to break the deadlock being Dustin Wells' effort for the Blue Devils which struck the crossbar inside the first fifteen minutes.

Belconnen's Tai Smith looked lively for large periods of the match whilst Olympics' best goal threat came from former Canberra FC striker Dominic Giampaolo who threatened to break down the Belconnen defence on a number of occasions but to no avail as the match ended with a point apiece.

Saturday afternoon's offering saw Tuggeranong United looking to bounce back from their opening weekend humiliation by Canberra FC when they faced Monaro Panthers, who had shocked many with their round one success at Federation Cup finalists Goulburn Strikers.

United took four minutes to seemingly banish memories of the Deakin debacle when young forward Alex Weber claimed a maiden ACT Premier League goal with a crisp finish after a decent Tuggeranong move. Any hopes that the home support had that this may be a turn around in fortunes for the club though was dispelled barely fourteen minutes later as Panthers striker Nathan Walker, the match winner in round one, was left free to stab home the equaliser in a crowded penalty box.

Walker was on target again before half-time with his second of the match giving the visitors a 3-1 advantage coming, as it did, on the back of Ante Ruskan's goal where the burly midfielder bustled his way through some weak Tuggeranong challenges to slot past home 'keeper Matt McDonald. A second half brace from the prolific Goran Veljanovski added icing onto the cake for John Bull's side who, despite pre-season predictions to the contrary, are riding high near the top of the Gatorade Premier League.

Action from the ACTPL match of the round between Tuggeranong (green) and Monaro (yellow). PHOTOS: PAUL LAU

Elsewhere, Federation Cup finalists Goulburn Strikers scored their first ever Premier League victory with a comprehensive 6-0 demolition of Woden Valley at Cookbundoon. The Strikers, who were beaten last weekend, were a different proposition against the young Woden team with striker Brody Willis back to his best with a typical brace of goals.

Rapid winger Sam Taylor, who had scored in the Federation Cup Final loss to Canberra FC, also struck a brace of goals and was joined on the score board by forward Daniel Aliffi and Nicky Rogers, who was rewarded for his selfless running and perseverance with a well-taken 44th minute goal, as the Strikers got their season up and running.

And Cooma Tigers have recorded their first ACT Premier League win since the 2006 Grand Final after they defeated ANU FC 2-0 at Nijong Oval. In a match that they largely dominated the Tigers registered late goals through Jair Wilk and Jean-Pierre D'Ambrosio to claim the three points much to the delight of a decent sized crowd.

The Gatorade Premier League now takes a break for the ANZAC weekend before returning for Round Three as ANU FC travel to Canberra FC, Belconnen United play Cooma Tigers at McKellar Park, Canberra City host Monaro Panthers, Canberra Olympic plays Goulburn Strikers and Tuggeranong United makes the short trip to Woden Valley.

Women's Premier League Round 2

Title favourites Belwest Foxes and Woden Valley remain the teams to beat after the second round of the Women's Premier League was completed in Canberra on the weekend. Both enjoyed goal-laden victories with The Foxes caning Canberra FC 11-1 whilst Woden Valley, led by a hat-trick from Catherine Brown, destroyed Brindabella Blues 8-0 on their own turf at Calwell.

Brown, who was joint leading scorer in the Premier League last season, was in ruthless form in front of goal striking a well-deserved hat-trick on her return to the team after missing the match last weekend. The dynamic midfielder was joined on the score sheet by Erin Clout, who scored twice, youngster Jaline Hoek, Australian under-14 international Meg McLaughlin and 2009 ACT Player of the Year, Grace Field. It was a dominant display by Woden Valley who faces fellow front-runners Weston Creek and Belwest Foxes in the next two rounds of action.

Belwest Foxes meanwhile went on a goal scoring spree of their own in their clash with Canberra FC at ANU Willows with a sensational 11-1 victory. The competition favourites were in ruthless form in front of goal, against a team that had opened the season with a 3-1 victory over Brindabella Blues in round one, racking up a plethora of goals.

Strikers Cian Maciejewski and Hope Wilkins both grabbed a brace with Snez Veljanovska following up her opening round goal against Tuggeranong United with another excellent strike. Kim Crocker, Tahlia Stanley, Lucy Hanrahan, Alice Nicola and an unfortunate own goal from Nicole Somi added to Canberra FC's woes as the score line mounted. Even Foxes goalkeeper Melanie Luksa, feted for her ability to keep clean sheets, got in on the act at the other end of field, tidily slotting home a penalty awarded after a sloppy foul in the penalty area.

Canberra FC did find the target themselves, Aurelia Bullot striking for the second match in succession for Doug Penney's side, reducing the deficit at one stage to 8-1, but it was of little consolation to a well-beaten outfit. The result keeps up Foxes coach Pat Mills' excellent start to the season following their Project Coordination Federation Cup victory.

Reigning champions Weston Creek recorded their first victory of the season following their opening round goal less draw with Belconnen United by defeating ANU WFC 3-0 at Woden Park. Inspirational forward Sarah Crittenden, who netted the match winner in last season's surprise Grand Final victory, was on target twice for Weston whilst Kelly Donnelly added the other goal to secure maximum points for Robbie Mason's experienced team.

Tuggeranong United, playing their first home match in the Women's Premier League after their promotion from State League Division One last season, gained a debut point with a hard fought 1-1 draw with Belconnen United. Maja Blasch struck for the Blue Devils whilst Freyja Jacobsen, who last season struck a hat-trick in the State League Division One Grand Final for Belconnen United, was on hand to grab her first Premier League goal in Tuggeranong colours to earn the draw.

ACT RESULTS

Canberra Olympic 0 Belconnen United 0

Tuggeranong United 1 (Alex Weber 4') Monaro Panthers 5 (Nathan Walker 18', 42', Ante Ruskan 37', Goran Veljanovski 51', 84')

Canberra FC 4 (Stephen Lee 21', 40', Adam Spaleta 44', Ivan Pavlak 54') Canberra City 1 (David Dexter 39')

Goulburn Strikers 6 (Brody Willis 21', 65', Daniel Aliffi 25', Nicky Rogers 44', Sam Taylor 51', 80') Woden Valley 0

Cooma Tigers 2 (Jair Wilk 70', Jean-Pierre D'Ambrosio 75') ANU FC 0

WPL results:

Belwest Foxes 11 (Cian Maciejewski (2), Hope Wilkins (2), Snez Veljanovska, Kim Crocker, Tahlia Stanley, Lucy Hanrahan, Alice Nicola, Melanie Luksa (pen), Nicole Somi (own goal)) Canberra FC 1 (Aurelia Bullot)

Weston Creek 3 (Sarah Crittenden (2), Kelly Donnelly) ANU WFC 0

Tuggeranong United 1 (Freyja Jacobsen) Belconnen United 1 (Maja Blasch)

Brindabella Blues 0 Woden Valley 8 (Catherine Brown (3), Erin Clout (2), Grace Field, Meg McLaughlin, Jaline Hoek)

NEXT ROUND

Round 3

Fri 30 Apr KO 8pm Monaro Panthers v Canberra City
Hawker Football Centre

Sat 1 May KO 6pm Belconnen Utd v Cooma Tigers
McKellar Park

Sun 2 May KO 3pm Woden Valley v Tuggeranong Utd
Woden Park Enclosed

Sun 2 May KO 3pm Canberra FC v ANU FC
Deakin Stadium (Deakin Oval)

Sun 2 May KO 5pm Canberra Olympic v Goulburn Strikers
Hawker Football Centre

LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	2	2	0	0	15	2	+13	6
2 Monaro Panthers	2	2	0	0	7	2	+5	6
3 Belconnen United	2	1	1	0	3	2	+1	4
4 Canberra Olympic	2	1	1	0	3	2	+1	4
5 Goulburn Strikers	2	1	0	1	7	2	+5	3
6 Cooma Tigers	2	1	0	1	4	3	+1	3
7 Canberra City	2	1	0	1	3	5	-2	3
8 ANU FC	2	0	0	2	1	3	-2	0
Woden Valley	2	0	0	2	2	9	-7	0
10 Tuggeranong Utd	2	0	0	2	2	16	-14	0

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Belwest Foxes	2	2	0	0	13	1	+12	6
2 Woden Valley	2	2	0	0	11	0	+11	6
3 Weston Creek	2	1	1	0	3	0	+3	4
4 Canberra FC	2	1	0	1	4	12	-8	3
5 Belconnen United	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	2
6 Tuggeranong United	2	0	1	1	1	3	-2	1
7 ANU WFC	2	0	0	2	0	6	-6	0
8 Brindabella Blues	2	0	0	2	1	11	-10	0

Normal service resumes in WPL

By Niki Cook

After a 'gala' opening round to the season, normal service was resumed in the Women's Premier League, as the teams returned to their home grounds and kick off times. It was business as usual for some teams, with Heidelberg and Ashburton chalking up victories, but the surprise of the round came in regional Victoria, as Bendigo held Box Hill Inter to a draw.

Bendigo Vipers gave its season an early boost, and in the process shocked the rest of the competition, when it held Box Hill Inter to a goalless draw at Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve on Saturday afternoon. With Inter having fielded a team with strong international and W-league experience the previous week in its defeat of South Melbourne, and Bendigo having lost to Sandringham, the signs pointed to another Box Hill victory. However, it was a very different Inter team that made the journey to Bendigo for Round 2, and the home side, fielding its own W-league star in Maika Ruyter-Hooley, was able to gain a valuable point against the reigning premier. With Bendigo having spent the last few years scrapping for points in the lower reaches of the ladder, picking up a point against such traditionally strong opposition could prove vital over the course of the year. Inter now finds itself in the unusual position of having dropped points, something it is unaccustomed to doing so early in the season.

South Melbourne's disappointing start to the season continued into Round 2, as it suffered its second consecutive 4-0 defeat, this time going down to Heidelberg United. Facing both 2009 Grand Finalists in the opening two rounds was never going to be an easy proposition, and this match bore striking similarities to last week's loss to Box Hill Inter. Once again, South was able to hold its opponent goalless for the first half, but then faded in the second period, and Heidelberg took full advantage to score four times without reply. Meghan Archer scored a brace, with Michelle Verzi also on target. The fourth goal remained uncredited at the time of writing. The result means that Heidelberg ends the weekend at the top of the ladder, although it could be joined there by Sandringham, which does not play until Monday night. South remains at the foot of the ladder, and is yet to score a goal.

Ashburton played its first match of the new season on Sunday, taking on WPL newcomer Altona City at HC Kim Reserve. The visiting team emerged victorious in a high-scoring encounter, although it had to withstand a second half fightback from Altona to secure the points. Ashburton scored twice in the opening period, to enter the break with an apparently comfortable lead. The second half was a more even affair, with Alexandra Miller scoring Altona's first two WPL goals, while Ashburton added another two of its own. Meagan Thornton scored twice for Ashburton, with Sarah Lovett netting once, and the remaining goal still as yet unaccounted for. So, Ashburton was able to get its campaign off to a winning start, and it sits third on the ladder at present, although it could be overtaken by Sandringham or Preston, depending on the result of Monday's match. Altona remains eighth, and must wait until at least Round 3 for its first point.

The round's final match, between Sandringham and Preston Lions, took place on Monday night at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex.

Round 3 begins on Friday night, with a big clash between Box Hill Inter and Ashburton. The home side is likely to be smarting from its failure to get the points against Bendigo, so it should come out firing, while Ashburton showed its intentions in Round 2 by defeating Altona, so this shapes as a cracking game to get the round started. On Sunday, Bendigo plays its second successive home game, this time hosting bottom side South Melbourne, which will be keen to get its first point of the season. Bendigo will be fired up after holding Inter goalless, so it will fancy its chances of chalking up its first win in this game which is being played at Tom Flood Reserve. Heidelberg United will be looking for its third straight win when it welcomes Sandringham to Olympic Village, and if Sandringham wins on Monday night against Preston, this match will see two undefeated teams face off, which should provide plenty of entertainment. The final match of the round sees the return to competition of Casey Comets, which had the bye in Round 2, when it takes on Altona City at Comets Stadium. Preston Lions has the bye.

WPL action from the Ashburton and Altona City game on Sunday. Ashy ran out winners 4-2. PHOTOS: ANITA MILAS

Ashbuton's Sarah Lovett gives a team-mate a lift. PHOTOS: ANITA MILAS

Altona City players congratulate Alexandra Miller. PHOTOS: ANITA MILAS

WPL RESULTS

Bendigo Vipers 0
Box Hill Inter 0

South Melbourne Womens 0
Heidelberg Utd 4
(M Archer 2 M Verzi)

Altona City 2
(A Miller 2)
Ashburton 4
(S Lovett M Thornton 2)

Reserves:
BASL 2 Box Hill Inter 1, South Melbourne 1 Heidelberg Utd 1, Altona City 0 Ashburton 7

WPL NEXT ROUND

Box Hill Inter v Ashburton
Wembley Park Fri 23 Apr KO 8:30PM

Bye v Preston Lions

Bendigo Vipers v South Melbourne
Tom Flood Reserve Sun 25 Apr KO 1:00PM

Heidelberg Utd v Sandringham
Olympic Village Sun 25 Apr KO 1:00PM

Casey Comets v Altona City
Comets Stadium Sun 25 Apr KO 1:00PM

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heidelberg Utd	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Box Hill Inter	2	1	1	0	4	0	4
Ashburton	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
Casey Comets	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Sandringham	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Bendigo Vipers	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
Preston Lions	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Altona City	2	0	0	2	2	6	0
South Melbourne	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

WPL RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Heidelberg Utd	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Ashburton	1	1	0	0	7	0	3
Box Hill Inter	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Casey Comets	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Sandringham	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
BASL	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
South Melbourne	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
Preston Lions	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Altona City	2	0	0	2	1	10	0

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Pascoe Vale FC make it a League & Cup double

By Adam Husseini

The Souvlaki Hut Cup Final, the Futsal Oz showpiece event was here again with Pascoe Vale and Metropolitan battling it out for $3,000 prize money & all the glory that comes with winning the elusive cup. Last year, Prahran beat Essendon in a thriller in front of a large buzzing crowd.

This year proved to be better then the last with two stronger teams and another $3000 kitty of cash to play for!

The night began with a competitive junior match between the Red Kangaroos & the Blue Birds, two fantastic junior sides at Futsal Oz (INNER City FC Junior Oz program).

Pascoe Vale FC "Complete the double in style"

Curtain Raiser
Red Kangaroos 5 – 1 Blue Birds
Red Kangaroos: Claudio Balzarin, Luka Radoslav-Clemente, Adrian Naso, Hunter Carran, Luciene Ibanda, Arlo Brownshaw
Blue Birds: Mark Radoslav-Clemente, Evan Stamatakos, Nicholas Minniti, Peter Constantinou, Leo Suzuki

The boys were all a bit nervous with the large vocal crowd & timing of the match. Albeit roughly the same age, the Red Kangaroos are currently top of the Junior Oz 1st division and the Blue Birds are first in the Junior Oz 2nd division. Both sides took time to find their feet; they did late in the first half and began to move the ball around constructing numerous scoring opportunities through 1-2's and clever individual play. Both sides played at a frantic pace and the second half was a big tussle. The Kangaroos took a two goal lead thanks to clever play by Adrian Naso in defence.

The Kangaroos physical size and clinical finishing proved too strong in the end; Hunter Caran was the star performer of the match without a doubt. The blue birds require a permanent goal keeper to give themselves a better chance in the next encounter. Claudio Balzarin has been a stand out keeper for the Kangaroos & will be instrumental in helping the Kangaroos to the title. Both sides played fantastically well, it's a credit to head coach Luciano Bessa. The boys were ecstatic after the game and you could see the stars in their eyes!

SouvlakiHut FOz Cup Grand Final Review

(1st) Pascoe Vale FC 8 vs 7 Metropolitan (6th) (after extra time)

Metropolitan: Jason Ng, Husmir Ikanovic, Jusif Avdic, Dragan Jeles, Alija Redzepovic, Dino Redzepovic, Ivan Zilic, Ricardo Castro

Pascoe Vale lineup: Greg Laskaris, Tomislav Grgic, Adrian Fruscalzo, Victor Mesquita, Marcus Barbosa Junior, Ernie Simsek, Simon Lammanda

The big boys didn't waste time jumping on the court and warming up, both meant business and this was going to be a game talked about long after the final whistle. Metropolitan was first out of the blocks, Husmir found the ball wide on the left, mishit a shot across the keeper but luckily for Metropolitan Dino Redzepovic was clever enough to read the situation and flick the ball past Lascaris before he could pounce, for the opening goal. The crowd went into the raptures as the Futsal Oz faithful urged on the underdogs. Both sides started just as the previous had, tentatively & nervous.

Pascoe Vale looked shaky at times; Simon Lammanda's late arrival didn't help, but it was unsung hero Marcus Barbosa Junior that equalized, he was in amazing form constantly posing a threat, running the lines and dancing his way past Husmir & Castro. It was a scrappy goal but it brought about a large chest thumping celebration to spark Pascoe Vale in to life. Zilic scored another nice goal for Metro, celebrating with a raised arm Shearer-style. Tomislav Grgic was getting forward for Pascoe Vale but it left gaps in the back. After Barbosa's second equalizer Pascoe Vale were caught out by the Metropolitan express that steam rolled North Melbourne the week prior.

The goals were flying in, Zilic threaded the ball through the smallest of pot holes between the legs of Lascaris, Alija Redzepovic ran and placed a corker into the bottom right corner and Husmir buried one from distance. Pascoe Vale was in turmoil but struck back instantly with a fired up Simsek unleashing a left foot scorcher into the top let corner. So often he'd pulled a rabbit out of the hat, Jason Ng (MFC) was fumbling quite a few of the Pascoe Vale shots, Grgic (PVFC) noticed and fired up the Paco troops! Lammanda (PVFC) was M.I.A for 15 minutes, but he chipped in with a dynamite shot high into the roof of the net and he had another soon after.

Simon played with all the flair, quality and confidence of a futsal superstar, as Barbosa & Grgic tired and Simsek ran out of ideas Lammanda stepped up to the plate to turn the game around. Metro didn't switch of completely though and at 6-6 Husmir swung the pendulum back in Metro's favour with a rocket from the left pocket to the right of Laskcaris (PVFC). Husmir was then sent off for a second bookable offence to add to the drama! Metro tried so valiantly to hold on.

But it was to be the comeback kings evening, Grgic scored the token screamer in the dying seconds to equalize, send the game into golden goal and the stadium into frenzy.

The PVFC savior and 2009-10 B&F player had done it again and in turn broke Metropolitan hearts & Momentum.

Paco went into extra time on 5 fouls to add to the extensive drama but they didn't concede a foul or Penalty, instead scoring and completing the first league-cup double in V-LEAGUE history,

M.Barbossa Jnr (PVFC) Most Valuable player in the FOz Cup Final 2009-10

SOUVLAKI HUT FOz Cup GRAND FINAL

PASCOE VALE FC 8 def. METROPOLITAN FC 7

Souvlaki Hut Futsal Oz Cup Final MVP

Marcus Barbosa Junior (Pascoe Vale FC)

Souvlaki Hut Futsal Oz Golden Boot

Haider Noor - 8 goals (FC Prahran)

Metropolitan FC - Unlucky to go down after a Barbossa Jnr golden goal"

Pascoe Vale FC v Metropolitan FC

Pascoe Vale FC

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Eagles lump misery on Georgies

RICHMOND EAGLES	2
SUNSHINE GEORGIES	0

Match Details:

Richmond: S.Gal, A.Viola, E.Karahan, D.Tsiaras, J.Krncevic, M.Lujic (L.Ryan 69'), D.Visevic, D.Scullion (A.Tabor 84'), A.Kovacic, M.Catalano (T.Uskok 80'), T.Milardovic.

Goals: Kovacic 15' Krncevic 75'

Yellow Cards: Krncevic 55' Tsiaras 64' Viola 92'

Red Card: Tsiaras 79'

Sunshine Georgies: M.John, J.Blackburn (D.Calleja 46'), B.Devlin, L.Grounds (M.Cini 78'), K.Joryeff, C.Konstas, B.Cogger (A.Nabbout 46'), F.Richards, S.Nicholson, D.Cameron, S.Beck.

Yellow Cards: Cameron 9' John 12' Richards 88'

Red Card: Nicholson 8'

Man of the Match: Stjepan Gal (Richmond)

Venue: Kevin Bartlett Reserve
Crowd: 350

Richmond's Dimi Tsiaras gets his marching orders from the refereee. PHOTO BY ANITA MILAS

By Mark Boric

The sole Friday night game in Round Seven of the Victorian Premier League was Richmond hosting the Sunshine Georgies.

The home side brought back Erhan Karahan into the starting line-up after his return from suspension, and also brought in Milos Lujic in place of Alex Tabor. Sunshine made one change to the team which beat Northcote City at Knights Stadium the previous Sunday, with Ben Cogger coming in for the injured George Papadopoulos.

Both sides began the game cautiously, neither team fashioning any early chances on goal. In the sixth minute Sunshine striker Stuart Nicholson challenged for the ball with Tom Milardovic, who went to ground after being struck on the back of the head by an elbow. After a two minute delay as the referee consulted with his assistant, Nicholson was shown a red card. A seething Doug Cameron was booked for his protestations with the referee, as was goalkeeper Martin John four minutes later. John sprinted into to the corner to argue with the other assistant referee prior to taking a goal kick after Lujic had struck the side netting when cutting in from the right.

In the fifteenth minute Richmond had a good opportunity when they pushed forward in numbers and were in a three-on-two situation with the Georgies defence, Michael Catalano slipping the ball to Jesse Krncevic on his right. Krncevic was unable to get past the last defender but earned a corner which was taken by Daniel Visevic, and met at the near post by the head of Antun Kovacic to give the Eagles and early lead.

Cameron put a free kick high over the goal in the eighteenth minute after Catalano had fouled near the box. The game continued to be a scrappy affair. On the half hour mark Catalano released David Scullion on the right, who beat one man before gaining a corner when taking on a second. The set-piece was easily dealt with, and at the other end four minutes later it was Stjepan Gal having to punch away a corner kick off his own line. As half-time drew close a good run from Lujic saw him square the ball to Milardovic, who's shot was well over the target.

A poor kick from Gal two minutes after play resumed saw Georgies skipper Fidell Richards hit a shot straight back at him. In the fifty-first minute a foul on Lujic gave Visevic a free kick which Krncevic headed wide, the ball being kept in by Kovacic before being cleared after he played it back into the six yard box.

Picking the ball up after a corner clearance Milardovic found Karahan on the left in the fifty-third minute, who played in Visevic up the line leading to another threatening cross being cleared by the Georgies defenders. When a cross from Catalano was only cleared as far as Dimitri Tsiaras, the Richmond captain shot at John from twenty-five yards. Kovacic had to leave the pitch for four minutes for treatment to a cut. After sixty-eight minutes Visevic picked up a loose ball thirty yards from goal but his shot was sprayed high and wide.

Three minutes later Karahan poked the ball forward with a desperate slide, releasing Krncevic on the left who had a shot blocked. Catalano then had his effort from the rebound blocked, and then John saved when Catalano had another chance from his own rebound. A corner from Visevic saw Tsiaras force Cameron into heading clear off his own line, Richmond left appealing for a penalty as Krncevic went down in the box in the ensuing scramble for the ball.

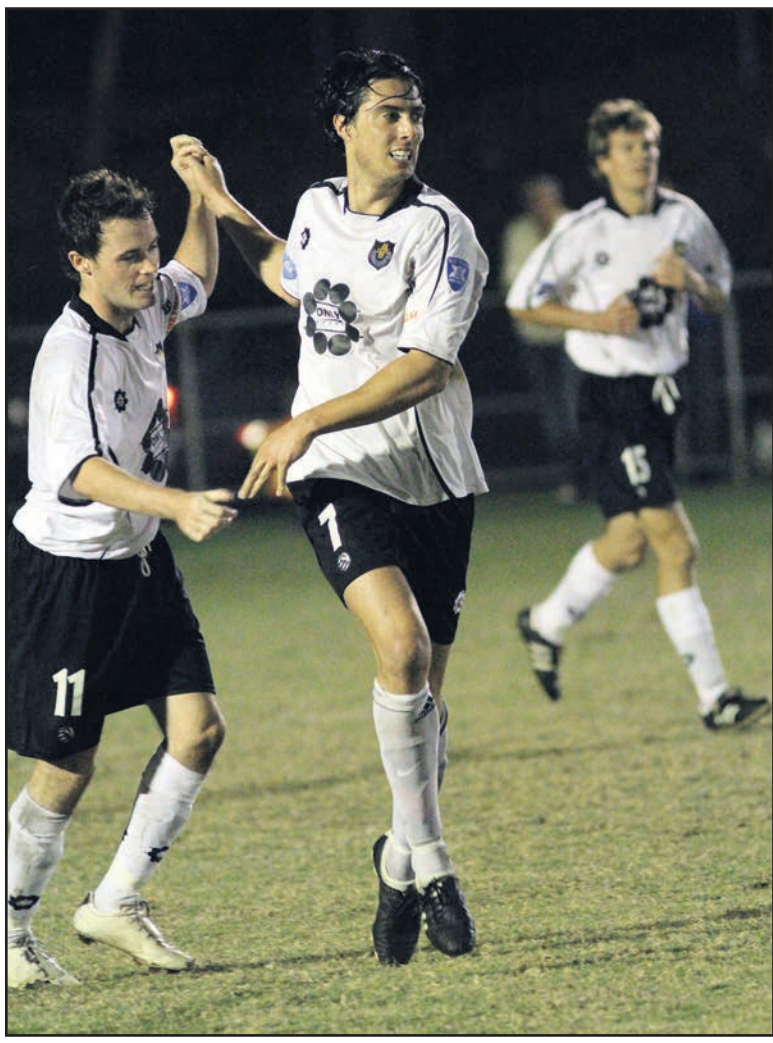
Richmond's Antun Kovacic (13) powers home his header to open the scoring. PHOTO BY ANITA MILAS

Great pressuring from Scullion would lead to a second goal from Richmond in the seventy-fifth minute. After closing down a defender he stuck his foot out to divert an attempted square pass into the path of Krncevic. Krncevic cut deep into the box from the left, striking the ball with his right foot to beat a stranded John at the near post from ten yards.

Just when it seemed as if the victory was sealed, Tsiaras was dismissed for picking up a second yellow card in the seventy-ninth minute. In an almost carbon copy of his first booking fifteen minutes earlier, he fouled Andrew Nabbout on the edge of the penalty area on the right flank when making a sliding tackle after the Georgies substitute had made a threatening run on goal. The free kick was laid back to Chris Konstas at the top of the box who struck a shot onto the outside of the post.

Sunshine now enjoyed their best spell of the game. A great save from Gal was needed to deny Nabbout a goal in the eighty-second minute. Two minutes later Gal was called upon again, this time tipping a shot from Nabbout around the post. A clever square ball from Visevic after a run forward provided Krncevic with the chance to shoot, but the effort went wide. Nabbout then tested Gal again, this time his strike going straight to the Richmond keeper.

Richmond substitute Tom Uskok made a strong run which ended with with his shot flying wide, as the game opened up late on. John saved well from Visevic after he cut in and unleashed a shot. Richards went into the book for a crude tackle on Visevic just outside the area on the right. From the resulting free kick Uskok had his shot from three yards out blocked on the goal-line. The final whistle came shortly after, Richmond temporarily joining Hume City at the top of the table after their 2-0 win.



Jess Krncevic continues his rich vein of form much to the approval of David Scullion (11). PHOTO BY ANITA MILAS

The Eagles will next travel to Oakleigh Cannons for an Anzac Day clash minus their captain. It will be a stern test for two sides currently holding down places in the Top Five. Sunshine will also be on the road, with a visit to Bendigo for a game against fierce rivals Green Gully. With only a point separating them after seven rounds, it looks set to be a torrid encounter.

Cavaliers To Sleep Well On First Clean Sheet

GREEN GULLY	1
NORTHCOTE CITY	0

Green Gully:
N.Roganovic, R.Ollerton, S.Burton, M.Medjedovic, D.Jones, J.Fleming, M.Sanders(M.Anderson), G.Hockless, J.Munoz(C.Drake), J.Groenewald(N.Robinson), A.Vargas.

Goals: Steven Burton (pen) 17'
Yellow Cards: N/A

Northcote City:
C.Theodridis-Petropoulos, A.Chiappetta, B.Norton, G.Papadopoulos, H.D'Agostino, E.Soares, P.Savio, J.Kalitatidis, J.Voulgaris, A.Tudor.

Goals: N/A
Yellow Cards: H.D'Agostino

Man of the Match:
Jeffrey Fleming (Gully)

Venue: Green Gully Reserve
Crowd: 750

By Markian Jaworsky

Last weekend Gully Coach Paul Harris spoke of defining moments for the team, having won his first game in charge.

This weekend Green Gully have won their first game at home and kept their first clean sheet of the season.
The second consecutive win had temporarily placed the Cavaliers back amongst the top five.

The home side started well. Joshua Groenewald started up forward again, and Matthew Sanders came in for the injured Gary Wales. At the other end of the park, Northcote City were playing without their key striker, Trent Rixon.

Joshua Groenewald brought the game to life as his one-two with Andy Vargas (via cheeky backheel) was finished wth a powerful strike on the Northcote city goal, only to crash against the crossbar and away to safety. On twenty minutes, the travelling Northcote City were punished for a handball, and a penalty kick was awarded to Green Gully. Steven Burton scored his third penalty of the season, and also became the club's equal leading goalscorer along side the injured Gary Wales.

Joshua Groenewald had a second chance of scoring, his close range header was somehow tipped away to safety by Northcote goalkeeper Chris Theodoridis-Petropoulos.

In the second half, the Cavaliers continued their dominance of play up until the 75 minute. Midfielder Jonathan Munoz was taken from the field in an accidental collision with his own defender Daniel Jones.

The loss gave Northcote an invitation to creep forward and string together their most significant attacking plays, however full credit to the defense, who managed to hold off first their clean sheet in 2010.

After the match Green Gully Captain and Man of the Match Jeffrey Fleming stated that his team had found new confidence in defense, and the shape (formation) in which the team is playing now under. The Cavaliers now look forward to next weekend's derby against Sunshine in Bendigo. Tom Flood Reserve, 3pm, Sunday April 25. A bus has been organised for members leaving Green Gully carpark at 11:30am and returning to the club at the conclusion of the game. Members are advised to book their seat with club management.

In the Under 21's, Green Gully fought hard twice to lead the visiting Northcote City team, but unfortunate circumstances including a red card did not help the young Cavaliers concede a late equaliser in a 2-all draw.

Gully's Josh Groenewald tries to get the ball under control while Northcote's Eddie Soares closely looks on. PHOTO: STEE STAREK

Gully's Steve Burton makes no mistake from the spot and sends Northcote custodian ChrisTheodridis-Petropoulos the wrong way. PHOTO: STEVE STAREK

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Greens give Thunder the Blues

DANDENONG THUNDER	0
BENTLEIGH GREENS	2

Match Details:

Line Ups:

Dandenong Thunder:

Webster, S., Rexhepi, S., Osman, L., Bahnsen, N., Bourakis, A (Kristo, A. 69 '), Bulloch, S., Ibraimi, I. (Korcari, V. 80'), Avdullai, A. (Armenian, H. 58'), Di Iorio, J., Davidson, R, Bright, J.

Bentleigh Greens:

Hendry, C., Smart , C., Devito, S., Meltcalf, C.(Stavridis, G. 88'), Apostolikas, T., Rojas, A., Ouliaris, T., Webster, J., Piemonte, D.(Fadljevic, A. 86'), Lonvancic, D., Fitzpatrick, L.

Scorers: Rojas, A. 7', lonvancic, D. 75'pen

Bookings: Rojas (Y), Smart (Y)

Man of the Match: Ouliaris, T.

By George Stogiannou

There was some deep soul searching in the Dandenong Thunder dressing room after their fifth defeat of the season, a 2-0 loss against Bentleigh Greens at George Andrews reserve on a perfect Saturday evening.

Both sides went into the game under full strength and desperate for the three points. The Greens were eager to return to the winners' list after two recent losses and got the ideal start to the game when midfielder Alex Rojas's strike from outside the box flew into the net over keeper Stuart Webster's arms in the seventh minute.

The goal gave the visitors an early lift however the home side responded creating the better chances of the first half, but lacked a clinical finish up front. Striker Afrim Avdullai missed two good chances, the first of which was foiled by brave keeping from the Greens' Clifford Hendry. The Thunder striker spurned an even better opportunity on the stroke of half time, which he headed over the bar from close range. Ryan Davidson had a couple of shots at goal charged down by the defence, and an Ibraim Ibraimi direct free kick almost snuck in at the far post.

The expected Thunder charge didn't materialize after the break with the visitors instead looking the more threatening team. As the match progressed the Greens defence stood firm shutting down Thunder's supply down the flanks, and the midfield led by Tony Ouliaris, got on top.

Greens defender Jack Webster went close to beating his namesake in the Thunder goal, but it was through wide midfielder Dean Piemonte's work in the 75th minute, that the visitors struck once more. Piemonte's sharp work in the box earned a penalty for a handball by his direct opponent Thunder defender Shane Rexhepi. Bentleigh striker Damir Lonvancic made no mistake from the resultant spot kick and a dispirited home team appeared resigned to another loss.

Assistant Bentleigh Greens coach Zoran Bizimovski commented after the game, " The character showed by the players today, their faith in our ability to work as a team, I couldn't be prouder of the boys. We had a few players out this week. It wasn't an easy game. In the first half we were under the pump. But after half time we could've put three or four past them. Credit to the players. Three or four players had a point to prove. Some of them were playing for their spots… we can't underestimate how important this win was for us today. We're very ambitious and our goal is obviously to be there finals time."

The home team on the other hand must be wondering where it's mojo from last season has got to as it languishes in 11th spot further away from the top five. The round seven result means it has suffered all its five defeats this season to the top five teams in the competition. The challenge it faces now is to recover its form in the coming weeks against teams in the lower half of the table.

Greens players mob Alex Rojas after scoring from a free-kick.
PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

Thunder's Joey Di Iorio goes to ground after a challenge from behind.
PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

Goalmouth action from george Andrews reserve on Saturday night.
PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

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SKILLZ (6-12), TINY TOTS (3-5)

'Bergers can't shake off Magic

HEIDELBERG UNITED	2
ALTONA MAGIC	2

Match Details:

HEIDELBERG UNITED:
Tilovski (Morales 46') – Miller, Lazaridis, Elvin, Matkovic, Kozic, Aleksovski (Tsiorlas 75'), Hossaini (del Melo 83'), Galanos, Basma, Ederaro

Goals: Basma 3', Aleksovski 29'
Yellow Cards: Matkovic, Elvin
ALTONA MAGIC:
Tomic – Koltovski, Kole Delev, Radojicic, Koce Delev, Sivevski, Theodore, Duvcevski (Bojku 72'), Saric (Siljanovski 78'), Bozinovski, Kovacevic

Goals: Theodore 21', 45 + 5'
Yellow Cards: Koce Delev

CROWD: 500
Player of the Match: Matthew Theodore (Altona Magic)

By John Fotinos

Heidelberg United & Altona Magic have drawn 2-2 at the Olympic Village this afternoon. In a game which Heidelberg had the better of the first half, Altona twice came back from a goal deficit to level proceedings. The result means that Heidelberg are yet to win a game this season after seven rounds, whilst the reigning premiers remain in the lower half of the table.

The match was played in front of a small crowd in warm conditions, and it was the home side that struck first through striker Hamid Basma in just the 3rd minute of play. He found space on the left after being played through and tucked the ball past an advancing Tomi Tomich to give Heidelberg an early lead. Moments later, Altona might have equalised with a flashing shot grazing the upright with Steven Tilovski well beaten.

Heidelberg might have doubled their lead on a few occasions, but for the work of Tomich, who blocked efforts from Ederaro & Basma. However, it was Altona that managed to equalise in the 21st minute in somewhat controversial circumstances. Following a free kick to Altona, the ball was played into the penalty box. As Tilovski jumped to punch the ball clear, he appeared to sustain a knock to the head from an Altona opponent. As he lay motionless on the ground inside the six-yard box, the ball fell to Matthew Theodore, who fired home from 12 metres to level the scores with Tilovski still requiring attention. The protests from the home side were waved away, and although Tilovski recovered enough to play out the first half, he would be replaced by replaced by Christian Morales at the main break.

Heidelberg, perhaps aggrieved at conceding the goal, immediately attacked from the re-start, and just short of the half hour mark took the lead again through Saso Alexsovski. The midfielder played a cheeky one-two ball with Ederaro & although there was a hint of a handball from Alexovski, he held his nerve to shoot past Tomich to make it 2-1 to Heidelberg. For the next 15 minutes, it was the home side on top, but for all its dominace, it was unable to breach the Altona defence for a third time. Alexovski was twice denied by acrobatic saves from Tomich, and both Basma & Ederaro shot narrowly wide in the ensuing period.

Deep into first half injury time, Matthew Theodore scored the goal of the match. The Altona recruit displayed silky skills to evade three would-be tacklers and curled a delightful shot in off the post to level the scores at two apiece going into half time.

The second half failed to match the quality of the first period, with both defences successfully snuffing out any real goal scoring opportunities. Theodore continued to threaten for the visitors, whilst Ederaro continually caused headaches for the Altona defence. However, the score remained deadlocked at 2-2 at full time.

After the match, Heidelberg coach George Katsakis remained upbeat despite his team being unable to take all three points. He felt that the difference between a win & the draw for his charges was that Altona's finshing was more clinical than that of Heidelberg. After three successive draws, Heidelberg now travel to Kingston Heath Complex next Friday (April 23rd) to take on newly-promoted Bentleigh Greens at 8:30pm. Meanwhile, on ANZAC Day (Sunday April 25th), Altona Magic host the Melbourne Knights at 3:00pm at Paisley Park.

In the Under-21's match this afternoon, Heidelberg United 1 defeated Altona Magic 0.

Hamid Basma, scorer of Heidelberg's eary goal clebrates with coach, George Katsakis
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Down and out ... Heidelberg Keeper Steven Tilovski was on the ground having been struck by an elbow when Altona Magic scored ots first goal. Heidelberg players look concerned, but referee Lucien Laverdure seems amused by the incident
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Harry Matkovic outjumps Magic captain, Pece Siveski
PHOTO BY JOHN PUNSHON

It's almost a dead heat betwwen Matthew Theodore (centre) and Josip Kozic. Saso Aleksovski backs up Kozic
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

South survive late onslaught

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	0
SOUTH MELBOURNE	1

Match Details:

Melbourne Knights:
Antony Loncaric, Ben Surey, Anthony Bran, Daniel Rocco, Liam Cannell (Gazmend Ajdinl 65'), Josip Magdic, Kevin Townson, Adrian Zahra (Joseph Franjic 88'), Thomas Skara, Jean Dubois, Jacob Colosimo (Anthony Colosimo 65')

South Melbourne:
Peter Zois, Steve O'Dor, Eddie Cetkin, Rama Tavsancioglu, Sam Torrens (Marinos Gasparis 77'), Daniel Vasilevski, Carl Recchia, Fernando De Moraes (Joseph Youssef 72'), Sebastian Petrovic, Gianni De Nittis (Yusuf Yusuf 86'), Joey Keenan

Man of the Match: Joey Keenan
Venue: Knights Stadium
Date: Sunday 18th April 2010

By John Kyrou

South Melbourne FC has survived a late onslaught by the Melbourne Knights to earn a valuable 1-0 win at Somers Street on Sunday afternoon. The winning goal was scored by Joey Keenan midway through the first half.

Both sides entered the game in good form. The Knights had registered an away victory against second-placed Oakleigh last week, whilst South scored a late goal against Heidelberg to keep its unbeaten start to 2010 intact. South started the match the stronger of the two sides, with an attacking structure of Keenan, Gianni De Nittis and Fernando De Moraes, who returning to the starting line-up following some excellent contributions off the bench in recent weeks.

Keenan should have opened the scoring after 25 minutes but instead blasted his shot over the bar. However he made up for it two minutes later when he received the ball on the right side of the penalty box and got past his Knights marker before firing a curling effort across Knights keeper Antony Loncaric's goal and into the far corner of the net. South had further chances to double their lead in the first half but were content to go into half-time with the one goal advantage.

South should have wrapped the game up in the opening minutes of the second half. A poor back-pass from a Knights defender fell to De Nittis, who fed De Moraes through one-on-one with Loncaric. De Moraes managed to chip the ball over the advancing custodian but could not beat the near post as the ball went out for a goal kick. South then won the ball in midfield and a series of excellent passing play led to the ball being squared across the area to Daniel Vasilevski with just the goalkeeper to beat. Vasilevski blasted his shot over the bar instead of the back of the net.

A game that could have been 3-0 for the away side may very well have been 1-1 moments later, as the Knights missed two great opportunities to level the scores. Firstly, a long ball played from defence eluded the South defenders, which forced goalkeeper Peter Zois to come off his line to clear the danger but a Knights forward got to the ball first and lobbed it over the South custodian. Luckily for the away side the ball was over hit and flew over the crossbar for a goal kick. The second chance was a miss from less than one metre out which had the home crowd in disbelief that their side was not on level terms. The final whistle was a welcome relief for the away side, who registered their first victory at Somers Street since 2007.

South faces another daunting away trip next week, when it travels to Broadmeadows Valley Reserve to face high-flying Hume City in the ANZAC Day clash. Kick-off is at 3pm next Sunday. At the same time, the Melbourne Knights travels to Paisley Park to face reigning VPL champion Altona Magic.

Action from the clash between Melbourne Knights and South Melbourne at Somers Street on Sunday. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Melbourne Knights Championship Reunion
Sunday May 16th 2010
Knights Stadium
2 Somers St. North Sunshine
2pm - Melbourne Knights Youth vs. Green Gully Youth
4pm - Melbourne Knights vs. Green Gully (VPL Game)
6:30pm 1994/95 Champions Squad
Coached by Mirko Bazic
vs. 1995/96 Champions Squad
Coached by Ian Dobson

Melbourne Knights Championship Reunion
Saturday May 15th 2010
Australian Croatian Association Melbourne
72 Whitehal Street, Footscray
$150 per head - including 3 course meal and entertainment
Master of Ceremonies Andy Paschalidis
Special Guests including the complete Championship teams
For Reservations please call Monica Cimera on 0419 398 913

HUME CITY	1
OAKLEIGH CANNONS	3

Oakleigh leap frogs City to top grab top

By Gordon Bennett

The much anticipated top of the table clash between Hume City and Oakleigh Cannons resulted in the Cannons claiming victory over a completely depleted City outfit, which was without Thompson, Vlahos, Riccobene, Pace, Petrevski, Talevski and the like. With the wind behind them in the first half, the Cannons tried to set up their lead with a disallowed goal at the 2nd minute of the match after the linesman called an offside.

With constant pressure and a solid start to the match, the cannons almost put the ball in the net after Curcija missed an open goal, after being unmarked at the back post at the 11th minute. With full momentum behind them Oakleigh continued to attack with Diaco causing minor headaches for coach Andy Vlahos.

Able to combat the Cannons attack, through the tight marking of Karpeh upfront, Hume City was able to withstand the wind and a desperate Cannons to go into the half time break at 0-0.

The second half began with a big bang after young City striker Turhan Sumbul completed a solo effort intercepting the ball at the Cannons defensive area and scoring a goal after beating the keeper to send his team 1-0 up at the 46th minute. The City faithful excitement lasted a total of 2 minutes with Drakos sending the ball past Acevski at the 48th minute to equalise and followed up with a brilliant left foot strike at the 50th minute after recieving a brilliant cross by Cameron Watson to send his team 2-1 up.

In complete shock, Hume City pushed for the equaliser and almost had it with a goal to Cardoza disallowed at the 58th minute after the referee called an offside. Sensing a goal was nearby, Turhan Sumbul showed some individual brilliance after taking on the Oakleigh defence with some great dribbling, only for the referee to call a controversial foul against the pumped up striker.

The frustration of the players spilled into the game after Cardoza was called for a foul on the Cannons keeper, after a late challenge, which saw the Cannons players all run into Cardoza to reminstrate the tackle.

Hume continued to push forward through Ersin Kaya who sent the ball wide at the 65th minute of the match.

Mehmet Karakilic put in an intelligent cross, but had no one to greet the ball which went out for a goal kick at the 74th minute of the match.

Tansel Baser came ever so close to scoring after he headed the ball just wide of goals at the 85th minute. With Hume desperate to get the equaliser, had to pick the all out of its own net at the 92nd minute. With the score at 3-1 the referee blew the whistle for full time, and Hume City's first defeat for season 2010.

Action from yesterday's table topping decider between Hume City and Oakleigh Cannons.
PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

VPL Standings Round 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Oakleigh Cannons	7	4	2	1	12	8	14
Hume City	7	5	1	1	15	8	13
Richmond	7	4	1	2	12	9	13
South Melbourne*	6	3	3	0	12	7	12
Bentleigh Greens	7	3	2	2	8	7	11
Green Gully Cavaliers	7	3	0	4	11	11	9
Sunshine Georgies	7	2	2	3	8	11	8
Altona Magic	7	1	4	2	7	7	7
Northcote City	7	2	1	4	8	9	7
Melbourne Knights	7	2	2	3	11	12	5
Dandenong Thunder	7	1	1	5	4	15	4
Heidelberg Utd*	6	0	3	3	11	15	0

VPL Round 8

N.T.C v Hume City
Olympic Village
Wed 21 Apr KO 8:30PM

Hume City v South Melbourne
Broadmeadows Valley Park
Sun 25 Apr KO 3:00PM

Bentleigh Greens v Heidelberg Utd
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex
Fri 23 Apr KO 8:30PM

Green Gully v Sunshine Georgies
Tom Flood Reserve
Sun 25 Apr KO 3:30PM

Northcote City v Dandenong Thunder
John Cain Memorial Park
Sat 24 Apr KO 3:00PM

Oakleigh Cannons v Richmond Eagles
Jack Edwards Reserve
Mon 26 Apr KO 7:00PM

Altona Magic v Melbourne Knights
Paisley Park
Sun 25 Apr KO 3:00PM

Standings: *Pending FFV Tribunal decision after crowd disturbances last week.

VPL Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
Oakleigh Cannons	7	5	1	1	21	10	16	
Richmond	7	5	0	2	19	11	15	
Bentleigh Greens	8	5	0	3	18	13	15	
N.T.C	7	4	2	1	26	11	14	
South Melbourne	7	4	2	1	14	10	14	
Northcote City	8	3	2	3	21	19	11	
Sunshine Georgies	7	3	1	3	13	12	10	
Heidelberg Utd	7	3	1	3	12	12	7	
Dandenong Thunder	7	1	3	3	8	17	6	
Hume City	6	2	2	2	11	11	5	
Green Gully Cavaliers	8	1	2	5	9	28	5	
Altona Magic	8	0	2	6	5	19	2	
Melbourne Knights	5	0	2	3	4	8	-1	

Richmond 3 Sunshine Georgies 2, Green Gully Cavaliers 2 Northcote City 2, Dandenong Thunder 1 Bentleigh Greens 4, Heidelberg Utd 1 Altona Magic 0, Hume City 1 Oakleigh Cannons 3

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